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TOWN MAN ACCUSED IN DRUG CASE

A MAN from Sandwich is in court charged with serious smuggling offences involving cocaine allegedly worth millions of pounds.

Douglas Wood, 59, from Waldershare Avenue was arrested after the haul destined for the UK was seized aboard a yacht just miles from shore, a court heard.

The 36ft vessel, bought in Trinidad and loaded with its cargo in South America, had been tracked across the Atlantic by a Royal Navy warship.

But 15 miles off the Cornish coast,

■ BY NICK AMES

customs officers swooped on the boat and smuggler Patrick Walsh, 40, who has admitted his role, and alleged conspirator Wood were arrested, along with David Coxon, from Newcastle.

When the boat was searched, more than 200lb of cocaine was found, London's Southwark Crown Court heard at the trial, which is set to last until the first week of December.

Mark Ellison, prosecuting, said the drug was packed into 2lb blocks and had an estimated street value of between £5 million and £11 million,

depending on the situation in which it is sold.

In the dock with Wood are Gerald McShane, 47, of no fixed address; Ricky Copp, 40, of Cranley Gardens, Muswell Hill; and William Cannon, 48, of South End Road, Rainham, Essex.

All deny conspiring with others to smuggle 202lb of cocaine into Britain on or before the date of September 12 last year.

Walsh, of Blairhead Drive, Watford, Hertfordshire – said by the Crown to have been “at the heart” of the conspiracy – and Coxon, 53, of Middle Street, Newcastle, have admitted the charge.



TOWN'S HEROES REMEMBERED

War hero Horace Abbott died on October 6, 1943, while serving with the East Kent Regiment, known as The Buffs.

He drowned while attempting to cross the Sangro River in Italy as the Allied armies fought to push the Germans out of the country.

The soldier is one of 22 names just added to the Dover War Memorial as a project seeks to identify all of the town's residents who died as a result of conflict.

In three years' time another plaque with more names will be unveiled as more details of the town's dead become available.

FOR FULL STORY SEE PAGE 4

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'Police need action more than words'

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A FOLKESTONE man has accused the police of spending too much time gathering information and not enough on action while he was trying to help foreign students in trouble.

Trevor Moss wrote in a letter to Yourshepway about finding seven French youths seeking sanctuary behind his hedge after being taunted and abused by a group of "local scumbags".

He then said it took more than 10 minutes for a patrol car to be called out, followed by a refusal to safely escort the students back to their host families. But the police insist their response was appropriate as none of the students were physically attacked and there was no danger to life.

Mr Moss said: "One of the more fluent students said to me they were worried about getting safely back to their guest family homes, and thought some of their group might have been caught by these louts and were on the receiving end of a physical attack."

"Trying to control the students was like herding cats, but having got them into the house and phoned the police, it took 10 minutes or more to get the operator to call for a patrol car."

"She was insistent on asking for far too much information and reluctant to get the police to come and give the students safe passage to their homes."

He said he ended up escorting most of them home himself, accompanied by his Great Dane, while one of the other host families collected some of them.

He said: "My main concern was that if the police had responded immediately rather than asking irrelevant questions of me and students with lit-



GOOD SAMARITAN: Trevor Moss is upset by the slow police response to his call

tle command of English (and who were concerned at having the police involved in their visit to this country), there would have been a much better chance of apprehending the idiots."

In response, Chief Inspector Martin Bradley said he was very grateful to Mr Moss for helping the visitors and was pleased to say they had not been physically attacked.

"Patrol cars are sent immediately when there is a crime in progress or there is danger to life, neither of which applied to this particular incident," said Chief Insp Bradley.

"It soon became apparent that none of the French students at Mr Moss's address were actually assaulted, and they were all safe."

"A police patrol arrived to speak to Mr Moss within 35 minutes of him making the call and therefore I believe we met the Policing Pledge, which states that we aim to answer all non-emergency calls promptly and 'if you are vulnerable we aim to be with you within 60 minutes'."

He also said the public would appreciate that patrols were busy.

Auction guides us to help fund-raising

A SPECIAL auction is taking place at a school in New Romney this weekend to mark 100 years of Girl Guiding.

An auction of promises, where winning bidders are promised services such as piano lessons, cake-baking or a round of golf, will be opened by MP Michael Howard and Shepway councillor Carole Waters.

The event at St Nicholas School in Fairfield Road is on Saturday at 6pm. To find out more, phone Irene Hills at the school on 01797 361906.

Festive lights switched on in style at weekend

FOLKESTONE'S Christmas lights are being switched on this Saturday.

The day starts at 11am at the Leas Cliff Hall with a procession along Sandgate Road to the Precinct.

Also starring are the cast of Cinderella, together with the band of Folkestone and Hythe Sea Cadets and baton-twirling troupe the Hawkinge Flyers.

Between 11.30am-5.30pm in and around The Precinct there will be fair-ground rides and music.

The Precinct lights are switched on at 5.30pm, followed by the Creative Quarter's big switch-on in The Old High Street at 6.15pm.

Unique plane on show

A SPECIAL aircraft designed to reach and help some of the world's most poorest and isolated people will be on display at Lydd this weekend.

The airport is hosting the revolutionary new Kodiak 100 plane, which made its debut in the UK in October this year.

The plane will be on display at the airport on Saturday from 10.30am-2pm, when the pilots will be on hand to talk about Mission Aviation Fellowship's work. Entry is free.

Snap up a new sketch

PORTRAIT artist Elena Priestley will be at the Neville Pundole Gallery in Folkestone this weekend offering commissioned sketches for the ideal Christmas present.

Parents and children can have their portraits sketched to be given as presents to friends and family, while a range of Elena's work will also be for sale, with small watercolours of Folkestone from only £39.

Everyone is welcome to the gallery at 39 Tontine Street, this Saturday and Sunday from 11am-4pm. Call Neville Pundole on 01303 223029 or go to www.pundole.co.uk.

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Adult drug saves life of young swine-flu victim

■ BY NICK AMES

A FOUR-year-old girl suffering from swine flu had a miracle recovery after doctors treated her with a drug normally only used on adults.

Jessie Flewker, from Deal, was given the anti-flu drug Relenza by doctors in a desperate attempt to save her life.

Doctors at the Evelina Children's Hospital, which is attached to St Thomas' Hospital in London, took the decision to use the drug to treat Jessie, making her the youngest patient in the country to be treated with the drug.

She is now fully recovered and back at school.

The little girl was near to death after developing a potentially-deadly brain-swelling, but just 12 hours after being treated with the medication she woke up from a three-day coma.

Her grandfather, the Rev David Flewker, said: "It was a very traumatic time for the family, but it all ended happily and Jessie is now back at school.

"The decision was a bold and courageous one. Usually the drug is just given to adults to inhale, yet Jessie was given it intravenously."

Her grandmother Carol said: "We owe her life to the doctors and nurses at the hospital. They were fantastic."

Jessie became ill on Tuesday, October 27, when she had a fit while out shopping with her grandmother.

She was taken to hospital in Margate, then transferred to the Evelina Children's Hospital and put in a drug-induced coma while tests



BOLD DECISION: Four-year-old Jessie Flewker was close to death when doctors decided to treat her with Relenza

were carried out. Despite not having a high temperature – a classic swine-flu symptom – she was diagnosed with the virus.

At Evelina Children's Hospital her condition worsened, and scans showed she was suffering from an inflammation of the brain called acute necrotizing encephalitis, which had not previously been seen in a swine-flu victim.

Doctors used Relenza, as well as treatment to boost her immune system, and she started to show signs of recovery the next morning.

Dr Marilyn McDougall, consultant intensive

care paediatrician, said: "We were very worried about Jessie because a significant number of children do not recover.

"We then changed her treatment to include Relenza given intravenously. We saw a very dramatic response."

Rev Flewker said: "I am happy to talk about this for two reasons – first to say thank you to the medical staff who saved Jessie.

"Secondly as a warning to people that swine flu is serious. I thought it was another panic like bird flu, but I now realise how serious it is."

Pfizer's changes 'will be good for local workforce'

PFIZER bosses have acted quickly to allay fears of large-scale redundancies at the Sandwich plant.

Reports that the medicinal chemistry department will cut its workforce in half and a total of up to 50 members of staff will lose their jobs have been branded inaccurate by the company.

Pfizer confirmed the vaccine and biotherapeutics research department would be closed down and relocated to La Jolla in California.

But in direct opposition to concerns for the future of the plant, the company said the news of a worldwide reorganisation was actually good for the local workforce.

The changes come in the wake of Pfizer acquiring Wyeth, one of its major competitors, and the announcement of a 15 per cent worldwide reduction in research and development staff.

A spokesman said: "This is actually a good news story for Sandwich.

"It will remain one of our five major research and development sites and remain our central hub in the EU.

"Our other main hubs will remain in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and California.

"I know there has been some uncertainty among those who work at the plant, but we are committed to keeping our most talented employees.

"There will be some redundancies, but at present I cannot say how many.

"Another two sections of our workforce will also be affected by the change – those who are relocated to other company facilities and those whose jobs are changed but are retained at their current place of work."

Work at Sandwich will concentrate on the areas of respiratory disease, pain and pain therapy.

Police report details crime and action

A TOTAL of 185 crimes has been recorded in the Sandwich area over the last 12 months – a figure comparable to the previous year.

October saw 24 crimes in the parish of Sandwich – down three on the comparable figure for 2008.

In a report to the town council, police say the robbery following the auction in the town's Drill Hall continued to be a source of concern.

They are working with Sandwich Auctions to ensure that a similar offence does not take place again.

Antisocial

Police also said they had responded to complaints of youths acting in an antisocial manner in the town.

One offender was caught after kicking a front door in King Street and his parents were sent a letter warning of the consequences should such behaviour be repeated.

Police also said there was a tendency for youths to congregate around the gate to St Thomas' Hospital and patrols were being adjusted to prevent trespassing.

The note ended by police saying they were pleased to see the use of the Astroturf floodlit pitch at Sandwich Technology School by an increasing number of youngsters.

Gardeners urged to leave berry-laden hedges for birds

CUTTING back hedges and bushes too early this year could starve birds of late autumn berries which they need to eat to survive, says the RSPB.

The mild weather has meant that birds are feasting on insects later this year.

Because they have not had to turn to autumn fruits, many hedgerows are still bursting with berries, which birds rely on to set them up for winter.

Traditionally, people start trimming bushes at this time of year once the breeding season is over.

The RSPB always suggests waiting until later in the winter, but this year it is even more important.

The wildlife charity says that cutting hedges back now would deprive birds of a vital natural food source, especially as berries become more edible and a more important food source after the first frosts.

Richard James, RSPB wildlife adviser, said: "If cutting can be put off until later in the year, it can provide birds with additional food.

"Usually, once any late nesters have flown the nest, we would say it was a good time to start tidying hedgerows and trimming bushes and shrubs.

"But this year, the weather only started to get really chilly in the last few days, and there are still plenty of berries on many hedges.

"We'd urge anyone thinking of a tidy-up to wait just a few more weeks until the natural food has been eaten."

The RSPB is appealing to gardeners, farmers and councils to wait until later in the winter or very early spring when all the berries and fruit have been eaten.

It also suggests cutting hedges in rotation as cutting some hedgerow species every year prevents the plants from producing large amounts of berries.

Many bird species will benefit from this, including residents like bullfinches and song thrushes and winter migrants such as redwings and fieldfares.

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Members sought for twinning group

NEW members are being sought for the reformed Sandwich-Honfleur Twinning Association.

The relationship between the two historic towns flourished until the 1970s, when interest appeared to decrease.

But in 2007 a small delegation from the town in Normandy visited Sandwich to commemorate the 550th anniversary of a siege of the town – carried out by soldiers recruited in Honfleur.

The arrangement is one of the most unusual reasons for a town-twinning in the UK.

Since then interest has gradually built up and this year a delegation of 47 people went to France at the invitation of Mayor Michel Lamarre to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the bond.

The visit was deemed a success and the plan is to reactivate annual exchange visits.

If you would like to join, phone chairman Mark Moorhouse on 01304 613882.

Gasworks site set for £2m revamp

THE long-awaited redevelopment of the Cannon Street gasworks site in Deal has received a boost thanks to a £2 million Government grant.

The award to developers Mildvalley and Stelane comes from the Homes And Communities Agency as part of its Kickstart scheme and is part of a package designed to help the construction industry through the recession.

The plans for the site – which include 69 new homes, a doctors' surgery and a community centre – have received a thumbs-up from Deal Town Council and now await a final decision from Dover council's planning committee on whether the group can go ahead.

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Culture and tourism minister Margaret Hodge at Dover Castle. Search 'Hodge'

Remembering the ultimate price paid by town's heroes

■ BY NICK AMES

THE names of 22 war casualties have been added to the memorial in Dover, boosting the project to commemorate all those from the town who died as a result of conflict.

The Dover War Memorial project is looking to identify as many residents who were killed in wars as possible and plans a new plaque every three years as further identities come to light.

Of the latest names, the majority were killed in the Second World War, although there are also some victims of the Great War of 1914-18, as well as one man killed in Ireland and another in Palestine.

Simon Chambers is part of the team researching the project.

"What we are doing is identifying Dorsetians killed in wars so that we can add them to the memorial," he said.

"As records go online, the task becomes easier, but it still can be confusing going through Government documents. However, I have to say it is a fascinating task."

Sometimes the group is contacted by a rela-



REMEMBERED: The list of 22 people from Dover who died in conflicts around the world, added to the Dover War Memorial

tive who says they know of a family member from Dover killed in conflict but whose name is not on the memorial and should be – while other times they come across details themselves.

"Dover has a proud military tradition which we aim to commemorate," said Mr Chambers. "As more names are revealed, so more plaques will be added."

Among the deceased identified in the latest plaque are representatives of all three armed services.

These include Horace Abbott, who drowned in the Sangro River while campaigning in Italy in 1943; William Dyer, whose ship HMS Kingston was attacked by the Italian battleship Littorio a year earlier; and Donald Halke, whose aircraft was shot down while on a night raid in 1944.

Not all the deaths were the result of combat –

James Keen, of The Buffs, died in 1916 of peritonitis and Nelson Cork was knocked down by an Army truck in the Middle East in 1938.

A service to commemorate the unveiling of the plaque was conducted by the Mayor of Dover's chaplain, the Reverend David Ridley.

Freedom

He said: "Welcome to this service of dedication for the new plaque on our town memorial. There are 22 new names on the new plaque – all of them gave their lives in the service of their country and for our freedom."

"We take this opportunity to remember them and acknowledge their sacrifice."

"This is also a time to offer solace to their families and friends who mourn their loss and who have kept the memory of their loved ones close to their hearts and alive today."



REMEMBRANCE: A veteran lays a wreath (left); and Dover's chaplain, the Reverend David Ridley, at the service held to commemorate the unveiling of the new town plaque (right)

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HELP OUR HEROES: From left, John Goodwin, town mayor Sue Jones and young singer Louise Orfila

Support stage show in aid of Armed Forces

THE town of Dover is united behind a project to raise thousands of pounds for Armed Forces charity Help For Heroes.

Dover's Got Young Talent is the name of a show which is set to be staged next year in the historic town hall – which has an excellent collection of military themed armour, flags and antique weapons.

It is the brainchild of district councillor John Goodwin, who has also staged an event to raise funds to survivors of the Asian tsunami.

Appreciation

Fully backing the event is local mayor Sue Jones, who says it is a way for residents to show their appreciation of servicemen and women in combat situations.

Eight acts, all volunteers, have so far been booked to appear and all are sponsored.

They include participants in shows such as Britain's Got Talent.

However, any further sponsors can help with promotion of the event and Cllr Goodwin is also looking for some celebrities to act as compères.

"We are looking to show what talent exists in the area in an appropriate historic setting," he said.

"The theatre, an old Victorian one, is right

■ BY NICK AMES

next to the town hall with its excellent collection of militaria.

"We are hoping to get some soldiers involved as well for a major finale to an event which will include music, speech and even comedy."

Cllr Jones said: "Dover no longer has a military presence in the form of a garrison. But this is our way of showing how the town keeps the military close to its heart."

"It is also promising to be a great evening out where people can see what talented young people we have in Dover."

Singer-songwriter Louise Orfila is set to be one of the stars of the event.

The 17-year-old, who has already performed shows in the US, said: "This event is something close to me as a few years ago at school we were asked to write a poem as if we were soldiers in the First World War."

"My father was a bandsman in the Royal Marines and when I had completed my work I wrote to the officer in command of the band and asked if I could perform it with them."

"They said yes and it all went well. The Royal British Legion then asked me to record the song, which I did."

"Now I intend to perform it live once again at the show."

Rotarian Charles joins the 100 club



HONOURED: Rotary Club centenarian Charles Cole

A HYTHE Rotarian who has reached 100 years old has celebrated his milestone with a new school minibus being named in his honour.

Charles Cole joined fellow members of the Hythe Rotary Club as they unveiled the bus, raised from funds as a tribute to his 46 years of membership, almost 20 of which were spent as secretary.

Named the Charles Cole Centenary Bus, it will be used by Hythe Bay Community School for taking pupils on lesson trips out.

Charles is the second oldest Rotarian in British and Irish Rotary International

and is hoping to be the oldest.

He owned the gentlemen's outfitters in Hythe high street for 58 years and was a familiar face in the town before retiring in 1994.

More than 50 people were there to mark the centenarian's achievements, including Hythe mayor Keren Belcourt, Rotary Club district governor Euan Eddie and the presidents of the Folkestone and Channel and Romney Marsh Rotary Clubs.

Charles is to be made a life member and awarded a bar to his Paul Harris Fellow Medal, the highest award that an individual member can achieve.

NEWS IN BRIEF

All safer on the street

POLICE in the Dover district stopped and spoke to more than 50 young people during Not In My Neighbourhood Week which ran from Monday, November 2.

Officers on foot patrol in Deal arrested a 16-year-old boy from Walmer who was wanted for a suspected burglary and shoplifting. He was questioned and released on bail while officers made further enquiries.

In the Buckland area, two young people were caught racing motorcycles around the estate, causing a nuisance.

Officers from the Neighbourhood Task team were supported by volunteers from the Special Constabulary. They have gathered new information on whom is causing trouble and committing crime. They will work closely with the Dover Community Safety Unit to investigate the information.

Inspector Paul Ludwig said: "Our new Neighbourhood Task Team is having a positive impact and will continue to tackle the concerns raised by residents about crime and antisocial behaviour."

A match made in heaven

A GROUP behind the Walkers Crisps advertisement campaign featuring former England football star Gary Lineker has visited Sandwich.

Members of the production team paid a visit to the town and members of the council said they were hopeful one of the ads would be filmed locally.

In the latest series of Walkers adverts, Lineker had a taste of Indian culture when he donned a curly moustache and an exotic costume, along with a tikka on his forehead.

The Match of the Day host is seen shaking a leg with Bollywood dancers and promoting the new onion bhaji-flavoured crisps.

Blooming well deserved

SANDWICH was awarded a merit mark in this year's South East in Bloom competition.

Its entry was organised by the local Chamber of Commerce and the town council, who hope to enter the event next year.

But the team says local people need to ensure that the streets are kept clean on a day-to-day basis as, although Dover District Council is responsible for weed control, spraying takes place just twice a year.

It wants people to pick up litter as well as weed areas close to their properties.

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Huge rise in our dole queues

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A STAGGERING 75 per cent increase in Kent's jobless figures means there are now almost 50,000 people claiming benefits in the county.

Kent is reeling under the latest unemployment rise, with most areas showing job losses higher than the national average. The statistics mean that 20,580 more people were out of work at the end of October compared with a year ago, reflecting the devastating effect of the recession.

In Dartford and Sevenoaks the number of people out of work has doubled, although towns such as Folkestone and Thanet, where unemployment is traditionally higher, there were less dramatic rises.

And of all of Kent's 23 Parliamentary constituencies covered by the figures – released by the Office for National Statistics – just four have recorded increases lower than the UK average of 63 per cent. The biggest rise of 110 per cent was in Dartford, which has suffered with the closure of several major employers in the last 12 months.

Last year, the town had 1,065 registered job-seekers, compared with 2,233 today.

Conservative Parliamentary candidate

INCREASE IN KENT'S UNEMPLOYED YEAR ON YEAR

CONSTITUENCY	OCT 08	OCT 09	RISE
Dartford	1,065	2,233	110%
Sevenoaks	527	1,102	109%
Maidstone	814	1,644	102%
Tonbridge/Malling	617	1,244	102%
Ashford	988	1,977	100%
Faversham	809	1,565	93%
Tunbridge Wells	624	1,168	87%
Chatham/Aylesford	1,424	2,650	86%
Bromley/Chislehurst	1,039	1,921	85%
Old Bexley/Sidcup	846	1,542	82%
Gravesham	1,498	2,587	79%
Gillingham	1,396	2,495	79%
Bexleyheath/Crayford	1,030	1,828	77%
Sittingbourne/Sheppey	1,464	2,564	75%
Orpington	1,128	1,966	74%
Medway	1,611	2,691	67%
Canterbury	991	1,648	66%
Beckenham	1,381	2,274	65%
Thanet South	1,259	2,060	64%
Dover	1,310	2,076	58%
Thanet North	1,838	2,885	57%
Erith/Thamesmead	2,343	3,638	55%
Folkestone/Hythe	1,615	2,439	51%

Gareth Johnson said: "These are deeply concerning figures and seem to show a worrying trend in Dartford compared with surrounding areas.

"We knew that with the closure of GlaxoSmithKline, Arjowiggins and MFI the recession had hit Dartford hard, but these figures confirm there are now in excess of 1,000 more people claiming unemployment benefit than this time last year.

"These figures are the consequence of the Government's mishandling of the economy. We are now the only major economy still in recession and this is due to Prime Minister Gordon

Brown's high levels of borrowing during the good times that have left this country with one of the biggest budget deficits in the world."

Despite being considered two of the wealthiest constituencies in Kent, both Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling are in the top five in the county for percentage increases.

The number of people claiming jobseeker benefits in Sevenoaks shot up by 109 per cent from 527 to 1,102, while Tonbridge & Malling rose 102 per cent from 617 to 1,244.

While the figures are still considerably lower than those in areas where unemployment is

usually high – such as Medway and Thanet – Tonbridge and Malling MP Sir John Stanley was still concerned. He said: "These figures confirm what I and countless others have been saying, which is clearly the UK is in the lowest and deepest recession we have had since World War Two, and a far deeper recession than in comparable countries.

"The first action I am going to take is to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to get the fullest possible details on unemployment in Tonbridge & Malling.

"I want to know whether it is an increase in young people or those working in the financial sector being badly affected.

"I also want to find out whether these figures reflect an impact on women rather than men."

Kevin Lynes, Kent County Council's cabinet member for regeneration, said County Hall was doing all it could to ensure council taxpayers' money was channelled into Kent businesses to help lift the county out of recession.

He added that KCC was lobbying the Government for a change or relaxation of legislation which means that contracts for services worth more than £140,000 have to go out to a full European procurement.

Cllr Lynes said: "We want to relax some of these legislations at times of recession so we are able to stream as much of Kent taxpayers' pounds as possible into Kent or at least South East businesses, which is the best way to lift the area out of recession."



ICON: Striker Didier Drogba

Generosity to kick-start football talent in Tanzania

POVERTY-stricken Tanzania could be where the next African football star is discovered, thanks to the generosity of clubs in Kent.

From the professionals at Gillingham FC down to the grass-roots level of Sunday league, teams from across the county donated boots, kit and equipment to help youngsters playing thousands of miles away.

The charity drive was organised by the Kent County FA's chief executive Keith Masters, who is also the European president of the Tanzanian Youth Sports Charity Organisation (Tysco).

Mr Masters said he hoped such generosity would one day help Tanzania emerge as one of Africa's leading football nations and produce players of the calibre of Ivory Coast and Chelsea striker Didier Drogba.

He said: "You'd be amazed at the skill that some of these players can produce

without boots and on some of the worst pitches you've ever seen in your life. It's just a bit of sand with homemade goal-posts but they're happy and content.

"The Premier League is massive out there and almost every kid you speak to supports one of the big clubs.

"They're so enthusiastic for the sport and extremely grateful for everything you give them, so it's a joy to be able to help them in this way.

"You've only got to look at countries that have received monetary help in the past, like Ghana, to see that there are some hugely talented players out there."

Rankings

Mr Masters was invited to join Tysco back in 2007 at a time when Tanzania was ranked 157th in the FIFA rankings.

Despite never having qualified for the World Cup finals, the national team now appear to be on the up and are placed just outside the top 100. As further proof, they have also beaten World Cup-

qualifiers New Zealand 2-1 in a friendly.

Mr Masters said: "There must be Wayne Rooneys and Theo Walcotts somewhere in Tanzania – all we have to do is find them. To do that we need to develop and hopefully raise the profile of the game there.

"They didn't want money from us, just boots and equipment, so I asked clubs in Kent to help out and they were tremendous. We had enough to fill three containers."

As part of his role with the charity, Mr Masters is also calling on people to donate unwanted textbooks so they can be reused in Tanzania's schools.

He said: "I just want to do what I can to assist these people because they have absolutely nothing. They're so grateful for everything you give them and it's great to see their eyes light up just for handing over three footballs."

To donate football or school equipment, contact Mr Masters through the KCFA on 01622 791850.



GAME ON: Keith Masters with players in Tanzania

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

SEZEN ZEKI



Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I was born in Northern Cyprus and educated in the UK. I have worked in a number of different industries, including publishing and advertising in London, did a stint abroad for a tour operator and was a manager at the Leas Cliff Hall.

Q How did you first become involved in the Channel Chamber Of Commerce?

A While at the Leas Cliff Hall, I worked with the chamber as a client and saw the enormous variety of events organised, including the chamber business awards. When the position of membership sales coordinator came up a few years ago, I jumped at it.

Q What do you think of the commercial, cultural and social life of Shepway?

A I believe Shepway has something for everyone. There are all sorts of shops, from the little shops on Hythe high street to multi-nationals in Folkestone. There is a beautiful coastal park and fabulous natural environments on the marshes. If you can't find something to do, you're not looking hard enough.

Q How well equipped do you think Folkestone firms are to combat the recession?

A Those that are members of trade associations like ours have access to support, information and training. They can network

with like-minded businesses and work together to ensure their success, even in a recession. Other businesses may find it more difficult as they may feel isolated or have to work harder to return the same profit.

Q Do you think the Government is doing enough to support business in this time of need?

A No. We would like to see less red tape, a cut in taxes and other overheads and a relaxation of some of the more onerous European-backed legislations which would enable our businesses to get on with making money, selling their products and providing jobs.

Q What advice would you give to a business wanting to start up in Shepway?

A I would advise them to join Channel chamber as soon as possible. As well as offering advice and support, we can link any new businesses into the network of support agencies, which includes Business Link, the local authority and all relevant trade or professional organisations. We can also introduce them to the local business community and give them the chance to find new customers and suppliers.

Q How vital do you believe tourism is to the future of the district?

A Here on the east Kent coast, with a fabulous environment and plenty of fantastic attractions, we are a natural draw for tourists,

not just from the UK but all over the world. The new high-speed rail link is most likely to start attracting more visitors and we have a challenge to ensure that our accommodation providers are able to meet the demands of this market.

Q Where do people find out about the Channel Chamber Of Commerce and what it offers?

A The best way is to ask a member as they sell our services far better. Word of mouth is worth a lot. You can check out the website at www.channelchamber.co.uk or phone 01303 270022.

Q What do you like to do when you're not working?

A I enjoy eating out, trying new foods and socialising with friends. I'm reading Nelson Mandela's autobiography at the moment. I love music of all varieties and enjoy going to concerts and musicals when I can. I am also a firm believer in travelling, seeing the world and experiencing new cultures. And, of course, last but not least, I'm a self-confessed shopaholic.

Q Tell us something that not many people know about you

A Politics fascinates me. My grandfather's family in Cyprus consists of MPs and ministers and my great-grandfather was a judge. Where my interest stems from, I guess.

Q & A

The new head of the Channel Chamber of Commerce speaks to **James Alexandre** about her background in industry, her Cypriot heritage and what the future might hold for businesses and tourism in the area

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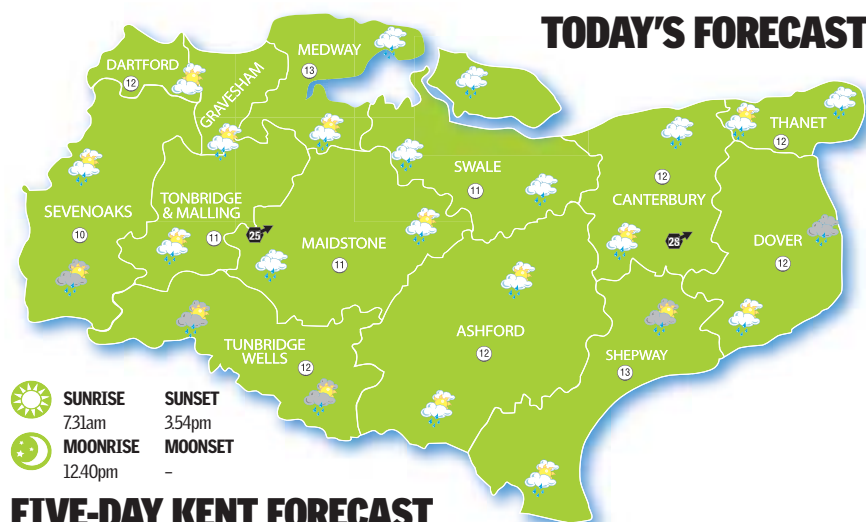
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MOONRISE
12:40pm
SUNSET
3:54pm
MOONSET
-

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	14°C	13°C	11°C	10°C	11°C	Gravesend	15°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	10°C
Canterbury	14°C	13°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	Maidstone	15°C	13°C	11°C	10°C	10°C
Chatham	15°C	14°C	11°C	10°C	11°C	Ramsgate	14°C	13°C	11°C	10°C	10°C
Dartford	15°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Rochester	15°C	14°C	11°C	10°C	11°C
Dover	13°C	12°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	Sevenoaks	13°C	11°C	9°C	9°C	9°C
Faversham	15°C	14°C	11°C	10°C	11°C	Sittingbourne	15°C	14°C	11°C	10°C	11°C
Folkestone	13°C	12°C	10°C	10°C	9°C	Tonbridge	14°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	10°C
Gillingham	15°C	14°C	11°C	10°C	11°C	Tun Wells	14°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	10°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	8:48am	5.0m
	Sunday	9:49am	5.3m
Dover	Saturday	7:24am	5.6m
	Sunday	8:12am	5.9m
Dungeness	Saturday	7:30am	6.4m
	Sunday	8:23am	6.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	7:54am	4.3m
	Sunday	8:42am	4.5m
Sheerness	Saturday	8:36am	4.8m
	Sunday	9:37am	5.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	8:39am	4.6m
	Sunday	9:34am	4.8m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	12°C	Madrid	14°C
Athens	16°C	New York	12°C
Barcelona	18°C	Paris	13°C
Beijing	5°C	Rome	16°C
Bombay	32°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	30°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	12°C	Tokyo	14°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	6°C
Hong Kong	20°C	Warsaw	9°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	15°C

Christmas criminals will feel the force

POLICE in Shepway are stepping up patrols in the weeks leading up to Christmas in an attempt to reduce crime over the festive period.

Officers, PCSOs and student police officers will be focusing on town and shopping centres to provide reassurance, act as a deterrent and deal swiftly with any reports of theft from shops or from people.

Some will be in plain clothes and CCTV operators will be monitoring shopping areas, car-parks and bike-racks to look for offenders.

Shops will also be kept informed through a radio network which they can also use to warn others and the police.

Alcohol

Powers will be used to ban persistent offenders from town centres where possible, and police teams will be working closely with the licensing officer, pubs, clubs and off-licences to make sure alcohol is sold responsibly.

British Transport Police will have also have extra patrols at the main railway stations and people will be asked what they would like dealt with in their neighbourhood, with the information sent back to the necessary team or community safety unit.

South Kent Detective Inspector Daren O'Malley said: "This operation is designed to keep crime down and to keep our town centres safe between now and over Christmas.

"The economic situation might cause some criminals to target Christmas shoppers and retailers, but by having a large police presence and by working with all of our partners, we will help to deter thieves.

"We are also asking people to do their bit by keeping their valuables safe, keeping purses secure, and being aware of anyone around them."

The five-week operation runs from Saturday November 28 to Tuesday January 5.



For actions on priorities where you live visit: www.kent.police.uk/yousaidwedid

To report non-urgent crime and anti-social behaviour, call **01622 690690**

In an emergency, dial **999**. For the deaf and speech impaired, text 'Police' to **60066**





BREAK TIME

Demon Headmaster takes to the stage

STUDENTS at St Edmund's Catholic School in Dover are busy preparing for their production of The Demon Headmaster this week.

The show, based on the book by Gillian Cross, will be performed at the school's New Eden Theatre on Thursday and Friday, November 26-27.

Marie Christian, head of drama, said students and staff had been working since September to prepare for these performances.

She said: "It really is a whole-school production, with students from year 7 right up to the sixth form taking many of the leading roles."

"Students have been rehearsing after school and at weekends and we are very proud of their dedication and commitment to the success of this production."

Tickets are available from the box office on 01304 201551 (extension 251).

Networking event for business types

UNIVERSITY Centre Folkestone in Mill Bay is hosting its second networking event for the Kent Association of Young Entrepreneurs this week.

The free event will feature a presentation on how to speak confidently, and local businesspeople and creative types are welcome.

To book a place for the day tomorrow (Thursday) from 5.30pm-7.30pm, go to the website at www.kaye.uk.com/event/58/.

Pupil James is awarded technology scholarship

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A STUDENT at Duke of York's Royal Military School has been awarded a scholarship for his work in design and technology.

James Gibbons became an Arkwright Scholar at a ceremony at the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) in London's Savoy Place last month.

Sponsored by training programme Construction Skills, it was presented to him by Professor Sir John O'Reilly, vice-chancellor of Cranfield University and a past president of the IET.

Sir John, one of the principal guests, said: "I greatly appreciated being involved. It was a real privilege."

"Congratulations to staff and the trustees for what is being achieved by Arkwright and on hosting an excellent event."

It was the institution's ninth year of hosting the awards and membership services manager Agnes Segal said: "It is a great privilege for the IET to welcome these talented young people, along with their parents and teachers, to our London home."

"We hope that they will go on to become the leading scientific and engineering minds who will work with engineers around the globe to solve the pressing problems facing the world today."

Scholars are selected following a rigorous selection process involving an application, sitting an Arkwright Aptitude Paper and an interview.



DESIGN FOR LIFE: James Gibbons receives his certificate at the Institution of Engineering and Technology's ceremony

During the interview, students presented their GCSE project work to a panel of judges and talked about their commitment to design, engineering and technology. The interviews are hosted by universities across the country.

Interviewees then take part in a team activity and are given a tour around the engineering and design departments.

A recent exhibition at the school showed a selection of A/S-Level project work by last year's Arkwright scholars.

The Arkwright Trust was founded in 1990 and supports young people during their A-levels by awarding £250 a year to help with the purchase of materials and books.

James Gibbons will also carry the status of Arkwright Scholar into university.

The school's design and technology department will receive £200 per year for the next two years.

Scholarships are supported by individuals, companies, institutions and the services.

SEND your schools news and pictures to dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk



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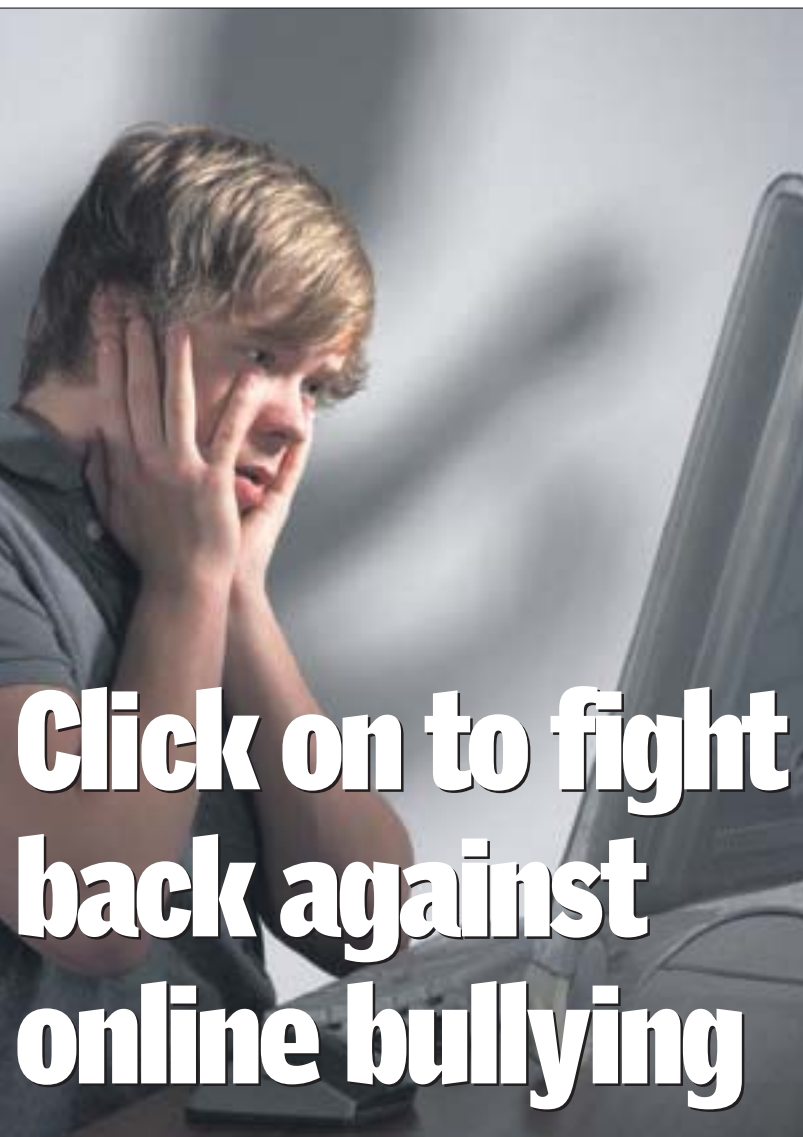
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Click on to fight back against online bullying

WHEN a schoolgirl found herself contemplating suicide after yet another abusive message from bullies she knew she had to tell someone.

The 13-year-old, who had recently moved to the area with her family, had been the target of a gang of girls who repeatedly subjected her to cruel taunts while at school.

But when she started to receive abusive emails and texts from the bullies at home she turned to her parents for help.

"I never felt safe," she said. "Even when I was at home they would put messages on my Bebo page or text me horrible things."

"It got to the point that when I went to sleep at night I hoped I would never wake up. This was when I spoke to my parents and they helped sort it out."

Campaign

For many her story may be familiar as national figures released this week show 61 per cent of 11-18-year-olds have witnessed some form of cyber-bullying.

And research by the Department for Children, Schools and Families found that more than a third of 12 to 15-year-olds have faced cyber-bullying.

Social networking sites, such as Bebo and Facebook, and computer messaging are a part of everyday life.

Last week was Anti-Bullying Week and the Government ran a campaign alongside called Stay Safe in Cyberspace.

One of the highest profile deaths this year was 13-year-old Sam Leeson, from Gloucestershire, who was found hanging in his bedroom by his mother and sister.

His Bebo page showed the extensive bullying he had been subjected to and even after his death shocking videos mocking his death were posted on Youtube.

Emma-Jane Cross, chief executive of

■ BY MARIJKE COX

national charity Beatbullying, said: "We know the consequences of cyber-bullying are just as traumatic as face-to-face bullying."

"In the past year alone we've witnessed tragic suicides resulting from relentless online hate campaigns."

"Suicide is an extreme manifestation, but research already underway shows us that increased isolation, poor educational attainment and self-destructive behaviour all readily follow cyber-bullying."

"We must all act together and fast."

Kent County Council's online Safe at School survey aims to find out about children's experiences and perceptions of bullying.

Leyland Ridings, KCC deputy cabinet member for children, families and education, said anyone who is being bullied should tell someone.

"If you go back years bullying was somewhat of a taboo subject," he said.

"Yes it went on, but it wasn't the done thing to talk about it."

"It's quite the opposite now. Anti-bullying is a priority for all of us."

"This survey is one way we can get a better understanding of the perceptions and experiences of bullying."

"It is anonymous and that will help those that are afraid to speak out."

Last week KCC's e-safety officer Rebecca Avery visited schools across Kent to make children and parents aware of the harmful effects of bullying over the internet.

She said: "Online bullying can be very traumatising for children. It's just as harmful as bullying in person."

"Parents may not even be aware that their child is a cyber-bully or is being bullied."

Visit www.kenttrustweb.org.uk to fill in the Safe at School survey.

If you are a victim of bullying, for more advice you can visit www.bullying.co.uk, www.beatbullying.org.

Charity calendar has comedy at its heart

THE deaths of her mother, grandmother and father-in-law all caused by heart conditions helped convince one Kent office worker she needed to do something to help others.

And she came up with a charity calendar with a difference – all scenes from famous British sit-coms.

Carolyn Trice works for DIY giant Homebase in their offices in Maidstone.

The personnel administrator said: "I wanted to do something for the British Heart Foundation because of the amazing work it does. And at this time of year, people are thinking about getting a calendar, so why not produce one."

But this is a little more modest than the many subtle naked ones on the market these days. Carolyn said: "I didn't want to do that as we are all too modest and shy anyway, and it has been done lots of times."

"That's why I suggested we do scenes from

traditional British comedies and everyone was delighted to join in."

The Homebase staff got together six weeks ago and produced 12 classic shots from shows like Steptoe and Son, and the Royle Family.

Steve Lidstone, the company's operations team leader at the Aylesford base, said: "The company agreed to print these for free for us, so every single penny we make from the sale will be going to the charity. We are asking for a minimum donation of £5 per calendar."

Carolyn added: "This is a project that is close to my heart, if you excuse the pun, because of what happened to my family. I lost my mother Joan King a few years ago, and my dad Alan has just had a quad heart by-pass."

"I am keen for the money we raise to be spent on defibrillators which can help lives. If someone has a heart attack, using one of these will give them a 40 per cent better chance of survival."

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yourblogger

Government plans to create more banks would just increase our monetary worries

Back in the old days we could bank on a face-to-face service

THE Government recently announced it was going to create more banks from the assets of the frail, wounded ones we own at the moment.

Quite frankly, I wonder why they want to create more organisations that provide such poor service to their customers.

Forget those smiling faces in TV adverts travelling around the Outer Hebrides in cash ice cream vans, helping wizened old islanders pay in their pension. It would be nice if they offered that level of service in the high street.

For example, helping families deal with elderly relatives' financial affairs. From my own experience this leaves a lot to be desired. In one case the bank immediately dispatched letters fining my dad for transactions while he was in hospital.

It didn't seem to matter how many times we told the bank he was ill and we had to look after his affairs, it just fell on deaf ears and the

computer-composed letters kept coming and the fines kept increasing.

Then my partner's recently bereaved father had to deal with an outstanding credit card balance. He is partially sighted and slightly deaf and yet they insisted the only way he could deal with the account was by talking to some distant call centre whose operators understandably could have no idea of the circumstances he was in.

They couldn't understand his Welsh accent and he couldn't make out their Indian one. (Strange really as they often sound quite similar).

These sorts of cases must be happening everyday and yet the banks make no allowance for the sort of people they are dealing with: people who are not born in the internet age, people whose only use for a computer mouse is as a paperweight.

You know, old-fashioned people who used to make this country money by making steel and ships, or rebuilding it after the Nazis tried to do their worst with bombs and V2 rockets.

At least they had something to show for

their efforts, rather than the city traders moving money around that isn't actually there.

The banks have our money which they use to create their profits. Most of them now have even more of it which we paid to the Government for schools and hospitals, thanks to their dodgy lending practices.

Yet they can't even stretch to having a member of staff people can meet in a branch and talk to about everyday problems that make banking difficult. And don't be fooled by their 'convenient' internet banking. It means they pay less staff in fewer branches and maximise their profits. It just makes us all more vulnerable to some computer fraudster tricking us out of our money.

Government should legislate that every branch must have at least one dedicated member of staff trained to deal with these sort of situations, someone like a manager, or is that just too old-fashioned?

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: We want your letters, comments and views. Send your submissions to editor Dave Mairs at dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

Write to Editor Dave Mairs, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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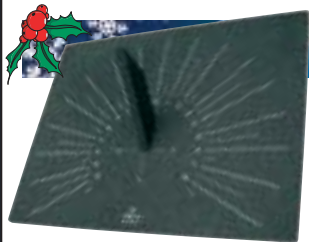
Synchronised to the moon's daily cycle the shortwalk time and tide clock incorporates an innovative and convenient guide to tides.

Simply set the tide hand to your favourite beach or estuary, then throw away your tide table! The hand is synchronised to the moon's daily cycle and rotates every 12 hours and 25 minutes around the hand spun solid stainless steel fascia, giving you the state of the tide at a glance.



SUNDIAL

ECO sundial made from recycled vending machine coffee cups. This green, eco friendly sundial is set to UK latitude and offers a unique and stylish alternative to existing sundials. The recycled coffee cup material has a lovely solid, heavy, earthy feel, very much like natural slate



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The clock and thermometer combination range are designed to be weather proof, so can be used inside or out. The clean, contrasting design can be easily read from the far end of the garden!

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TALK TIME

JOHN CULLEN

The independent film-maker talks about needing actors for his new short



What is your new film about?

It is about a rocky relationship between a student and his girlfriend back home.

How long have you been working on it?

Officially, six months. I hadn't been working on it 100 per cent before that.

How did you get into film-making?

It is something I always wanted to do, so I went to university and studied it. This is my first film since university, where we made two or three films every year. I graduated from the University College of the Creative Arts in Farnham.

Who are you influenced by?

Everyone, really. There are so many great film-makers out there, it is difficult to pick any one in particular. My favourite films are Rear Window, by Alfred Hitchcock, and Oldboy.

What sort of person do you want to audition?

I am looking for a man between 18 and 23 and a woman between 18 and 20. Absolutely anyone can audition, they don't have to be professional actors. The film will be 10 minutes long and take about a week to shoot, and I will put it into film festivals. I am shooting in mid-December, so people who want to audition should make sure they are free then. To audition, email me at cullen.casting@gmail.com.

YOUR LETTERS

Shouldn't we shop about for opinions?

Professional opinions in matters relating to the law should be subject to cross-examination. In recent council debates, professional opinions on the likely effects of Sainsbury's proposed supermarket on traffic and the high-street shops did not appear to be adequately questioned.

These opinions came from professional assessors appointed and paid for by, er... Sainsbury's.

Derek Phillips
by email

No more denial, it's time to face change

I said last time that I expected Ian Taylor to continue his sad climate change-denial ways and 'Et voila' in last week's letters.

However, apart from merely complaining about this, I am just calling a spade a spade; he just rehashes old discredited views (Professor Lindzen) and out-of-date climate information.

Carbon levels have definitely soared over the last few years especially, but as it can take decades to reach the upper atmosphere to cause damage, we are only now experiencing the effects of that put out from the 1960s to the early 1980s. Worse may yet come.

Meanwhile, the peer-reviewed report from Professor Corinne LeQuere and her 30-strong team on November 17-18, albeit via



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the IPCC Intergov Panel, clearly shows the growing effects of this and the likely consequences if we do not tackle the situation fully now.

The rise in carbon levels is mirrored by the increasing

failure of soils and oceans worldwide to absorb it, alongside deforestation.

This is why Brazil has pledged to cut tree-cutting by 45 per cent ASAP.

Meanwhile, the people of

Tan-jung Mas, Indonesia, for example, have seen a sea-level rise of 3.7 centimetres a year since 2002.

Similar could well start happening around the UK, threatening Romney Marsh for example, sooner than expected.

Also European shores – as the ice-caps continue their melting as the Arctic may be ice-free in the summer around 2020.

As for industry, the head of the CBI said some time ago that he accepted global warming was happening and was our fault, even admitting the last 20 years' emissions by firms could be very damaging in the future.

He now advises firms large and small on how to adapt to the changing conditions.

Indeed that is what is now rapidly required, especially in the car and fossil-fuel industries. This is what is required, not "rolling them back", as Lindzen claimed.

The politicians, however, continue to squabble and procrastinate; the forthcoming Copenhagen talks may produce only tepid agreements; and the UK government plumps for more centralised and radioactive nuclear alongside so-called clean coal stations.

The news that Dungeness has been ruled out is one bright spot, though – the decision very unlikely to be reversed despite the whining of local politicians.

As for climate-deniers in general, I point to articles by George Monbiot in his Guardian columns, including recently, where he points out that apparently most of them are in their 60s and 70s and think they are 'entitled' to continue their consumption, having worked hard for it, among other

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reasons. Also that recent books, *Tomes Of Denial*, by Ian Plimer and Chris Booker, have been discredited by scientists and panned by reviewers alike.

Others drift away because of fear, ignorance and lack of understanding.

This, though, is another failure of governments and others to address this fully with better education about the issues.

They must do so now without delay. I also advise readers to seek out the weekly and largely easy-on-the-brain *New Scientist* magazine.

Finally, I leave Mr Taylor to his waffle, though I shall not reply further as I'm not into banging my head against brick-wall ignorance, as I see it.

Ray Duff
Folkestone

Welcome to the battle

So at long last Michael Howard has seen the light and finally opposes the unwanted lorry park at Sellindge.

Shame he didn't make his views known before the county council elections in June returned dozens of Tory councillors hell-bent on concreting over the green fields of Sellindge and polluting the village with juggernauts and diesel fumes.

If he truly opposes the building of Britain's biggest truck-stop in his own back field, then he should now park himself at County Hall until his Tory colleagues there withdraw their planning proposals and halt their grovelling appeasement of the road transport lobby.

Martyrdom takes more than just laying down one's ageing body to stop the march of the Leviathan.

It takes sincerity, commitment and above all a zeal that the present MP for Folkestone and Hythe certainly hasn't shown in the past.

Michael Howard is entitled to a peaceful retirement after 25 years' service to the constituency.

He does not deserve to end his days run down by the county council's bulldozers.

But welcome to the fight, Michael, and welcome to the committed thousands ready to lay down their bodies next to you if Cllr Carter and County Hall don't get the clear message that Sellindge will fight the juggernaut park with their last breath.

Donald Worsley (Labour)
PPC for Folkestone and Hythe

Dealing with postcode politics slightly upsetting

Oh dear! I do seem to have ruffled a few feathers amongst Deal's Conservative Party members by pointing out that their candidate for Parliament came down to us from the Knightsbridge and Belgravia ward of Westminster (last week's letters).

All three Conservatives consider that it is "nasty" of me to try to help their parliamentary candidate by highlighting some of the differences between Deal and Knightsbridge.

I am grateful to Wayne Elliott, leader of the Conservative group on Deal Town Council, who has pointed out that our local Conservatives' parliamentary hopeful has a home close to Victoria, which would place it within the Belgravia part of the Westminster City Council ward.

Knowing how important postcodes and addresses are to some, I shall in future make sure that I refer to Mr Elphicke as coming from Belgravia, rather than Knightsbridge.

It is disappointing, however, that all three seem to regard any criticism of

Conservative policy on the historic environment as "dirty politics".

It would have been more helpful to the public if they and their parliamentary candidate had risen to the challenge of an informed debate on policy.

The facts remain. One can do very little with Deal Castle other than what English Heritage is doing.

Putting art works in the castle will lead to their destruction because of the damp.

Drying out the castle will destroy the castle through chemical decay, apart from being expensive and noisy.

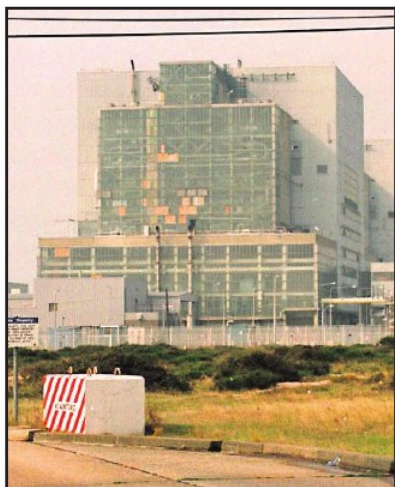
And the castle is of a size that makes it impossible to get enough visitors through the door at any one time to make it economically viable. That is not being negative.

It is simply being realistic.

As I have said publicly before, I do not object to the Conservatives' proposals for Deal Castle because the Conservatives have put them forward.

I object to their proposals because they are unhelpful, wrong and naive.

Cllr Mike Eddy (Labour)
Mill Hill ward



I'm waving the FLAG

The committee and members of FLAG are deeply shocked by the news that Dungeness C will not become a reality.

However, this terrible news serves only to strengthen our resolve to bring badly-needed employment to our area through the redevelopment of our airport.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Natural England all objected to another power station at Dungeness, as they also did Dungeness A and B, the redevelopment of our airport and the wind-turbine farm at Brookland.

Romney Marsh would be littered with the dead bodies of Bewick's swans if the wind farm went ahead, cried the RSPB – loudly echoed by the CPRE – yet not one casualty dead or injured has been reported at, or in the vicinity of, the wind turbines.

The people at Natural England advocated a 'managed retreat' policy at Jury's Gap which most certainly would have resulted in the inundation of the Marsh.

Thankfully, sanity prevailed as the Environment Agency, supported by the Ministry of Defence, won the day with a policy of 'hold the line'.

The CPRE, RSPB and Natural England have opposed, over the last 50 years, all efforts to create employment for the local people yet have enthusiastically supported gravel pits in which local people have drowned.

Their credibility is in tatters and the

committee and members of FLAG call on the local community to complain to MP Michael Howard and the Secretary of State for the Environment about their activities.

Michael Walsh
Friends of Lydd Airport Group

Hydro-power is natural choice, Mr Prime Minister

I don't agree with Gordon Brown's proposal to

open a nuclear power station in Kent.

Anything nuclear brings health problems, problems with where to dispose of the waste and no one wanting to live anywhere near the plant.

Why doesn't Mr Brown use the facility that is surrounding us?

Hydro-power... the Germans used this years ago. Why are we so slow in using our natural resources?

If you want to get voted in again, Gordon, you shall have to do better than that.

Name and address supplied to the editor



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Quality ingredients and value for money have put the eatery firmly on the map for those who look for quality and affordability.

Live jazz nights are being held on December 3rd and 4th to add to the appeal of this popular venue.

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On arrival at Dees, customers are shown to their table, where they receive a bowl of



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Great food and live music

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Produced by the same team who brought last year's Snow White to the Marlowe stage, this is sure to be another fantastic show to entertain all the family.

The 1,250-seater, fully-heated and

equipped theatre arena has all the amenities you would expect to find in a regular theatre, from a refreshments kiosk to ample toilets.

With the latest in theatrical sound and lighting equipment, the standard of performance will be just as high as ever and with such a great cast on board the scene is set for a fantastic festive show.

As a star of The Young Ones and Bottom, Edmondson has become one of this country's best-loved comedians, but fans will see his dark side when he plays the ultimate villain, Captain Hook.

He has also branched out into straight acting, music and writing, but it is unlikely that, as an alternative comedian in the 80s, he imagined he would one day perform the famous Ghost Bench Gag.

The fairy Tinkerbell will be played with effortless grace by Dave Lee, the comedian from Herne who has been doing plenty of flying this year, so he should be looking forward to taking

to the wing once again. Resplendent in his pink tutu and tasteful make-up, Lee's Tinkerbell is sure to be a vision of beauty.

As Hook's bumbling sidekick Smee, Ben Roddy will have his work cut out to please his villainous master. After training at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art, Roddy starred in a variety of theatre shows from Strangers On A Train and Deep Blue Sea to When Did You Last See Your Trousers?

He has also appeared in musicals such as Oklahoma! and The Wizard Of Oz, along with television and film work.

Steven Butler and Gemma Sutton also join the cast for this fabulous story about the boy who never grew up.

Ticket prices start at just £10 and performance times vary, so pick up a brochure or visit the website at www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk to find out more. Book online or phone the box office on 01227 787787.



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MILITARY MUSIC SPECTACULAR

Friday, November 27
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



GREAT music crosses the Atlantic to treat a Shepway audience to an American spectacular.

This year's Military Music Spectacular promises to live up to its title with an evening of wonderful music performed by talented musicians.

The United States Army Europe Band will be playing a diverse programme of works, embracing everything from popular musical

showstoppers to some traditional army music.

There will be a few surprises amid the evening's entertainment, so the audience can look forward to a superb evening of the world's best music performed in an atmosphere of history, pomp and pageantry.

As one of the world's finest military bands, the United States Army Europe Band will be a real treat for music lovers. Enjoy a taste of America in Folkestone as this 50-piece ensemble present a fantastic programme.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are priced from £14 to £16. To book, phone the box office on 0844 847 1776 or visit the website at www.leascliffhall.org.uk.

LOS PISTOLEROS

Friday, November 27
Tower Theatre, Folkestone



DESCRIBED as this country's answer to The Mavericks, Los Pistoreros are regarded as a superstar Americana band.

But the members are not really country players and have undertaken separate work, often working with some of the top names in pop and rock.

Vocalist, violinist and rhythm-guitarist Bobby Valentino was a founder member of The Fabulous Poodles and went on to work with artists as diverse as Bob Dylan, Shania Twain and Bob Geldof.

He is also a regular member of Mark Knopfler's current band, but he is most often recognised as the co-writer and violinist on The Bluebells' massive 1993 hit Young at Heart.



Lead guitarist Martin Belmont has many achievements to his name, but he is most proud of being the hands of Eddie Grundy whenever The Archers' character plays guitar.

Fellow members Kevin Foster, Jim Russell and BJ

Cole also boast impressive pedigrees, so do not miss this chance to see them in action locally.

They will be supported by local musician Jack Pound.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10. Phone the box office on 01303 223925.

PLUCK'S MUSICAL ARSON!

Friday, November 27
Quarterhouse, Folkestone



FIND out what happens when great music falls into the hands of talented idiots as Pluck are let loose with instruments.

The classical-music trio will demonstrate their seriously silly side with the acclaimed show Musical Arson!

Experience Pluck's melodic buffoonery as they compete, ridicule, argue and seduce their way through some of music's greatest works, from Bach to The Beatles.

Three hilarious musicians combine comedy with fantastic musicianship in this entertaining show, which has captivated audiences from the UK to Australia.

Following an acclaimed



debut at the Edinburgh Festival in 2003, Pluck have played to sold-out audiences all over the world, won four international awards and played to crowds of all sizes,

from a stadium to schools.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12/£10.

Book at www.quarterhouse.co.uk, or alternatively phone 01303 858500.

SHEPWAY LEISURE

There's a Grand treat in store for jazz fans

FANS of live jazz are in for a treat at The Grand in Folkestone on Thursday.

The Pete Abbott Group will be performing in Keppels Music Room from 8.30pm. Led by guitarist Abbott, the band are made up of bassist Andy Wall, drummer Roger Jeffery, saxophone-player Ivan Thompson from Hullabaloo and Claire Harris providing the vocals.

Phone 01303 260330 for details.

US comedy legends are remembered in show

RELIVE the wonderful wit of two American comic legends in An Evening With Bob Newhart And Tom Lehrer.

Pianist-vocalist Peter Gill has joined forces with fringe actor Andrew Meller to present a new show that celebrates the satirical 50s/60s humour of these comedy greats.

See them at the Tower Theatre, Folkestone, on Saturday. Tickets cost £10/£8 – to book, call Tony Cock on 01303 223925.

Parade leads the way to festive lights show

FOLKESTONE will be illuminated on Saturday when radio presenter Adam Dowling turns on the Christmas lights.

The Santa Parade starts at 11am, with Miss Folkestone, the Folkestone and Hythe Sea Cadet Band, the Hawkinge Flyers majorettes and the cast of Cinderella.

From 11.30am there will be children's rides, music and other entertainment. The big switch-on takes place in Sandgate Road at 5.30pm.

Sixties band Juicy Lucy still doing own thing

LEGENDARY band Juicy Lucy will be demonstrating why they are still fresh at a gig in Folkestone this week.

With their roots in the late 60s, the band play great original material. Find out more at www.juicylucyinfo.co.uk.

Juicy Lucy will be playing at The Frenchman in Christchurch Road on Friday. To find out more about the venue, phone the pub on 01303 259815.

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Hamsters play three-set homage to rock legends

BY SIMON ROBINSON

VETERAN rockers The Hamsters are performing a one-band triple-header in Gravesend on Friday.

The Essex trio take up all three slots on the bill – appearing as the opening act, second band and headliner.

The hard-working Hamsters open with a set of their original material before following with two complete covers sets, one paying homage to Jimi Hendrix and the other to long-bearded rockers ZZ Top.

The band's musical versatility has brought them immense popularity and, more importantly, longevity.

Having been on the road for 23 years, the band have notched up more than 4,000 appearances and a 20,000-strong mailing list.

The band's own publicity blurb reveals how the trio survive and why they have been so successful.

It reads: "Originally forming for their own amusement – and taking their name from the Sex Pistols, who once used it as a pseudonym to outwit hostile councils – The Hamsters enjoy the irony of being an aggressive band with a cuddly name."

"Although serious about what they do, they don't take themselves too seriously."

"The Hamsters are established as the UK's premier blues-rock attraction."

"This has been achieved purely by hard work, with the band handling all their own affairs, thereby disproving the popular misconception that it can't be done without major-label muscle."



AGGRESSIVE OR FLUFFY? Blues-rockers The Hamsters bring 23 years of gigging experience to the Woodville Halls

"Although primarily performing their own brand of material, they are also widely regarded as our leading interpreters of the music of Jimi Hendrix and, more recently, ZZ Top."

"Members have performed with artists such as Eric Clapton, Alison Moyet, Doctor Feelgood, Walter Trout and the late, great gentleman of British blues, Alexis Korner."

For those yet to be convinced of the band's talent, former Formula 1 world-champion Damon Hill is among the trio's biggest fans and was even caught sporting an official band T-shirt at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

The Hamsters will play the Woodville Halls on Friday. Doors open at 8pm.

For details, visit www.thehamsters.co.uk.

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SONGSTRESS: Ebony Johnson sings Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah



CREATIVE: Rockers Kingskin perform Stoner Girl at the Create Festival



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- 2 The Suspects – 28/11 The New Inn, Minster-in-Thanel
- 3 The Geoff Everett Band – 4/12 The Royalmail, Lydd
- 4 Stacey And The Freeloaders – 5/12 Leo's Red Lion, Northfleet
- 5 The Flack – 13/12 The Westcoast, Margate

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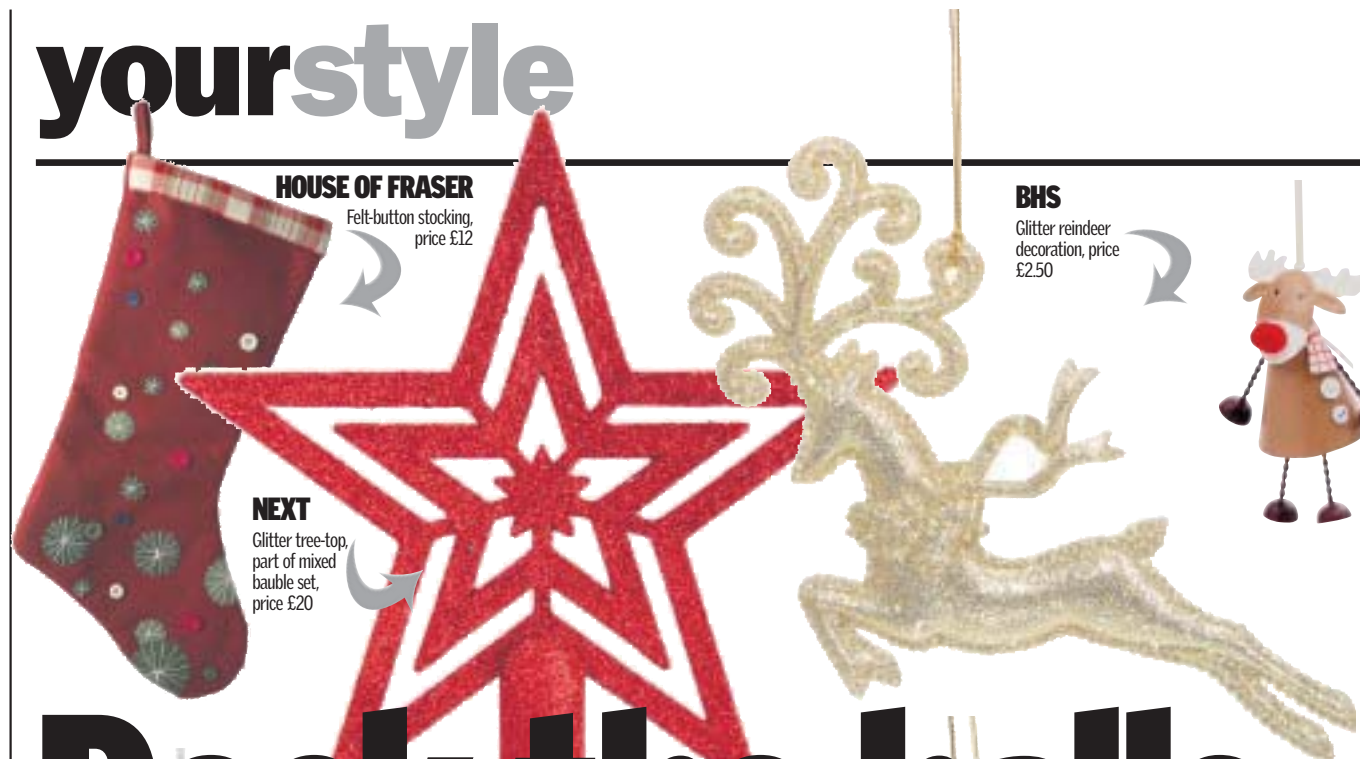
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- Prepare yourself for the 50 per cent tax
- It pays to read the paperwork
- Being a good sport can pay off
- VAT is back, make sure you're ready
- Consumer legislation is under review
- Consider a greener investment
- Isn't it time the banks made changes?
- Road tax isn't the only financial burden
- Drive your way to bigger savings
- Cars versus bank accounts
- How the scarp page scheme adds up
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If you would like details on how you can include your business on vouchers for Kent, telephone today on 01303 817150

what's inside

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Whilst the electorate loved it, not everyone's looking forward to the new 50 per cent tax rate that's due to come in next year, but it doesn't have to be all doom and gloom for those who have to pay

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Forewarned is forearmed when it comes to checking the lease for your business property, suffering a little paperwork now could save you from more later

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You can raise your company's profile without having to spend a

fortune on advertising when you take up sport sponsorship

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We all know VAT's due to return to 17.5 per cent with the coming of the new year, but what exactly does that mean for your business?

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Consumer legislation is due for an overhaul as the European Parliament reviews current regulations, it's vital that you're prepared

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Going green and eco-friendly are the new buzzwords for our way of life, but are they also becoming a more viable

alternative for investing our hard earned? It looks like they might just be worth considering

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The country's paid the banks billions in bailout money, so isn't it about time we saw some of the benefits?

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Consider the bigger picture when trading in your car to downsize on road tax, it might not actually save you money

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Get your driving into gear and you could save a boot load of cash with these tips to keep you on track

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Is a bank account or a car a

better investment? We take a look at some of the options worth considering

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After an overwhelming response to the Government Scrappage Scheme it's now been confirmed an extra £150m will be added to the pot, which is certainly worth considering, but don't worry if you can't enjoy the offer - there are a lot of great deals out there anyway

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Our friends from across the Channel have proved how successful a van can be converted into a people carrier, and now we're learning to take advantage of the model too

Essential guide to where you can save

■ SCG Construction in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all landscaping

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering a free manicure at the same time as a cut and finish

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering 50 per cent off leisure club joining fee when you present a voucher available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

■ KOS is offering ultra slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, saving £20 on the RRP

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off everything in store every Saturday and Sunday

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering two complimentary personal training sessions with fully qualified instructors if you sign up with Bannatyne Health Club Ashford today

■ Experience the natural comfort, warmth and luxury of a traditional feather mattress with the innovative mattress topper from only £39.99, save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available thanks to KOS offer

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Prudence will pay you dividends

CHRISTMAS is going to place its own demands on your bank account and many people are planning to spend less this year.

It is tough and while we are all waiting for any sign that the

recession's over, the priority for both individuals and businesses is to make sure they survive until it's over.

This month in Money Matters there are tips for individuals and ideas for business to make your cash go further.

For you, check out some of the many money-saving offers available

at vouchersforkent.co.uk.

There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; and retail, trades and services.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

With just five weeks to go, it may easier spread out the present

buying over a few months and the vouchers can help.

So why not spend a few minutes flicking through the online booklets, and you may end up being able to tick off a few people from your present list and save yourself money at the same time.

Happy shopping and we wish all of readers well.

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Avoid the January blues with early advice and support

MARK NEWMAN, a partner at newly launched HCW Recovery Solutions LLP, a corporate recovery service introduced through accountants Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP, explains that with the right advice Kent's small and medium businesses (SMEs) can avoid the traditional difficulties of New Year survival

WHILE many businesses may be finding the going tough at the moment, there will be some for whom the Christmas and New Year period brings no festive cheer at all, leaving them facing the prospect of closing.

It's a depressing fact that more businesses fail in the first three months of the year than during any other quarter and this could be especially marked in 2010, as many firms are having to look more closely at how they operate and their cash flow in order to make it through the recession.

Why the seasonal headache? For SMEs, December is often a less productive time because of holidays, sickness and Christmas spirit, but wages still have to be paid during the yuletide break. The added difficulty in securing supplies, getting paid and often in

simply getting work out of the door over the Christmas period means a severe cash crisis could be looming come January.

There's a widespread perception that insolvency is a last desperate resort, but we would always urge businesses to seek advice at an early stage as pre-emptive action can ensure the business continues. Burying your head in the sand can be as damaging for your business as it can with your health. It is far better to undergo minor surgery in order to make a recovery, than to let things drift and discover the prognosis is terminal.

There are also a number of steps SMEs can take to mitigate any nasty surprises which

may be brought about by seasonal difficulties:

- Plan ahead and produce accurate management accounts on which to make sensible business decisions. At the very least, businesses need to determine which creditors, including the taxman, are pressing. And when and how they can be paid.
- Produce accurate cash-flow forecasts so you know where you stand and don't be afraid to talk to suppliers and customers about payment terms. More importantly, be open and honest with your staff.
- If problems loom – look at how you can reduce the gap between in and outgoings.
- Talk to an expert – are your business sys-

tems as efficient as they can be or are you wasting valuable management time and money? Is your business tax efficient too?

- Stay calm. Just because a business comes under pressure from creditors does not mean that, with the right action and advice, it cannot survive.
- The best tool is always planning ahead. If this problem is a regular occurrence at this time of year, a strategy is needed to iron out any cyclical problems. The key is always not to panic, take the right advice and be honest with yourself in making projections and forecasts. Plan for the worst-case scenario and the reality isn't likely to be nearly so bad.

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NEXT year the new 50 per cent tax rate will come into effect for high earners. It was a popular measure with the electorate, but was understandably less well received by those earning more than £150,000 who will be the ones facing the increased contributions.

Those who fall into this bracket should be asking whether their money can work smarter for them. There are many ways to maximise the potential of your earnings and by talking through your position with an Independent Financial Adviser (IFA) it should be possible to see how you can make your money work more efficiently. There are various options, whether it is by being paid in dividends if you own the com-

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Some independent advice could save you a packet



Given how much time directors spend thinking about their company's money, it is surprising how little attention some of them pay to their own finances, says CHRIS WINNING, Managing Partner at Clydesdale Bank's financial solutions centre in Tunbridge Wells

pany, being paid in share options, incorporating yourself as a company if you are self-employed – an adviser can suggest what is best for you.

Clydesdale Bank has two business branches in Kent – Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells – but we also provide private banking solutions and our IFA service is an integral aspect of this. We have been holding a series of briefings in which our local IFAs, who have access to the most appropriate solutions from across the entire financial market, have been providing customers with guidance on the 50 per cent tax rate.

An IFA can also help with making other aspects of your finances more efficient including:

- **ISAs** – Compared to traditional savings accounts, ISAs are a tax-efficient way of saving money. Each year, you can invest up to £7,200 in an ISA. The full amount can be invested in a Stocks and Shares ISA, or you can deposit up to £3,600 in a Cash ISA and the balance in a Stocks and Shares ISA.

- **Inheritance Tax** – Inheritance tax is paid on your total estate – essentially everything you own when you die. This is current-

ly levied at 40 per cent of the value above the current tax-exempt threshold of £325,000 (£650,000 for married couples or civil partners). There are various strategies that can be employed to limit the tax liability of your estate after your death.

- **Pensions** – Depending on your income, you will receive full tax relief from the government on any pension contributions you make, up to £245,000 annually (and up to a maximum of £1,750,000 over your lifetime). If you are a higher rate tax payer, this could prove to be a great way to invest your money tax-efficiently.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free bottle of house wine when you present your voucher at time of booking your office Christmas lunch – minimum table of four to qualify – available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, so you can save time and money and use up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99 save £35 on RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning services for £79.95+vat

■ KOS is offering Severin Electric BBQ. Save £30 on offer price of £149.99, RRP £179.99

■ Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Living Out log cabin store, Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off

■ KOS is offering a £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine only £99.99 inc p&p RRP £299.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering free oil filter when you have your bike serviced in the service department.

■ KOS is offering rechargeable Micro Luggage Scales £19.99

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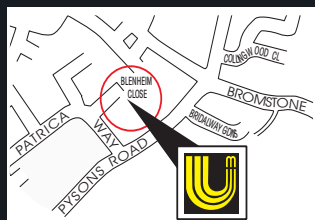
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Business property leases: Forewarned is forearmed

YOU'VE found the ideal new premises for your business, but before signing on the bottom line have you taken a close look at the lease? **Richard Metcalfe** of Metcalfe Stanley Hicks Chartered Building Surveyors, offers an insight into a little understood, but potentially very costly subject 'leasehold dilapidations'.

Everybody who leases a commercial property, regardless of its size or age, needs to understand that unless you take appropriate steps before signing the lease, you will be responsible for repairing the property before you leave regardless of its condition when you first occupy it.

Failing to understand the terms of your lease and its obligations can leave many businesses facing substantial and unwelcome costs at the end of their term.

For example, an occupier of industrial premises wished to vacate one unit and move into another. Naturally anxious to minimise their liabilities on each of the premises, they sought professional advice and settled at £75,000, approximately 50 per cent of the amount claimed on the property being vacated. The new premises had been inadequately refurbished and had a roof nearing the end of its life. After negotiation the landlord completed



SIGN: Know what you are signing up for

the refurbishment to a higher standard and provided a new roof, saving the incoming tenant £65,000 and ensuring a trouble-free period of occupation. In total £140,000 was saved by taking appropriate dilapidations advice.

In the vast majority of cases it is the responsibility of the outgoing leaseholder to repair and reinstate the property before the end of the lease. In the absence of this the leaseholder must compensate the landlord.

Getting the work done can be disruptive to the leaseholder's business and may force them to vacate early. Negotiating a financial sum with the landlord can be difficult and involve substantial legal costs.

Chartered Building Surveyors work closely with legal advisors to negotiate the pitfalls of

dilapidations, ensuring their clients, be they landlords or leaseholders, respectively maximise their gains or minimise their losses when buildings are being vacated.

Too often businesses believe that, as they are leasing rather than purchasing, there's no need for a Building Survey. This is a dangerous misconception and before signing any commercial lease you must obtain proper professional advice and quantify your liabilities. This ensures the true cost of the lease can be measured and contingencies made to avoid unexpected costs when the building is handed back.

As a lease nears its end, landlords also need to take appropriate legal advice and consult a chartered building surveyor. A Schedule of Dilapidations must be prepared and served on the lessee in good time and sufficient detail by an experienced chartered building surveyor practitioner.

If you are the prospective leaseholder the message is: Forewarned is forearmed - consult your chartered building surveyor before you sign the lease, and again in the last year of the lease, so that you may plan your effective exit. The key is not waiting until you receive a Schedule of Dilapidations from your landlord.

• **Metcalfe Stanley Hicks** - www.msh-cbs.co.uk - is experienced in advising both landlords and leaseholders in respect of their liabilities under commercial leases for repair of buildings and in costing disrepair and pursuing claims.

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By **RODNEY CHAMBERS**

WHEN it comes to building a company's profile, as well as investing in the internet, media relations and advertising, many also look to put their hard-earned cash and name to a sporting endeavour.

One such company is GSE Group, the construction group based in Ashford. It's been a case of 'nothing breeds success like success' thanks to the winning ways of GSE Racing Airwaves Yamaha Superbike team. Over the years motor racing has provided an excellent opportunity for the business to market itself to existing and potential clients.

GSE Racing is the most successful team in British Superbike history, with five championship titles (including the 2009 Championship), countless race wins and a reputation for producing future world champions. Its Airwaves Yamaha team riders, Leon Camier and James Ellison, finished the 2009 season as champion and runner-up respectively.

Darrell Healey, founder and chairman of GSE Group, utilised his passion for motor racing and recognised that performance on track could help promote the business, when he first

put the company name to the GSE Racing team back in 1997.

In addition to the association of success, GSE Group is able to use its sponsorship as a unique opportunity to offer first class hospitality to clients in a thrilling race-fuelled environment. Derek Gilburt, a director at GSE Group said: "At GSE Group, we interpret high quality corporate entertainment as an investment. We aim to differentiate ourselves from competitors and offer face to face time with clients in a relaxed and informal environment".

The construction industry is still a fiercely price driven market and GSE Group recognises the importance of establishing and maintaining both personal and professional relationships with its clients. At a time when many companies are reducing marketing budgets, the GSE Group uses client entertainment as a way of controlling its marketing spend through strategic activity.

Derek Gilburt continues: "Corporate entertainment provides access to a targeted and captive audience. If you're going to invest time and money in a corporate event, it's important to ensure you have the right clients there, and this is much easier in a controlled hospitality environment."

The use of corporate entertainment via the

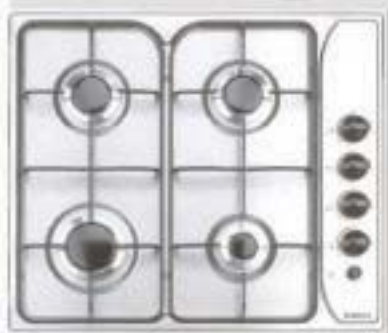
GSE Racing team adds further value to GSE Group by creating a lasting impression with key decision makers. Derek Gilburt added: "When an existing client takes up a new position with a company we've not yet formed a

relationship with, they can provide access to a whole new opportunity. At GSE Group, we know that showing commitment to our clients in the long term has benefits way beyond the chequered flag."



ON TRACK: GSE Group is the name behind the GSE Racing Airwaves Yamaha Superbike Team

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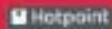
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VAT you need

ALTHOUGH HM Revenue and Customs has a new 45 page guidance document on its website and 13 pages on the anti-avoidance rules, many businesses will need help to understand them during the coming months. If you are in any doubt about the changes, seek specialist advice as early as possible.

HMRC has stated it will not

specifically target change of errors unless there is a loss of revenue, if you do make errors you may have to account for extra VAT you have not charged, plus interest and a potential penalty of up to 30 per cent for not taking reasonable care. By planning early you may be able to improve your own cash flow and help some customers save VAT.

Tax point rules

For any supply of goods or services VAT has to be charged at the so-called 'tax point'.

For goods, the basic tax point is when the goods are delivered or made available. But this is overridden if invoicing or payment occurs earlier. If both occur before the basic tax point it is whichever is the earliest.

Example 1: On December 15 I order a computer to be delivered in mid January. I pay the invoice dated December 15 on the same day. The VAT rate is 15 per cent. Many retailers are likely to promote the 2.5 per cent VAT saving and it will improve their own cash flow.

But there are also special rules which aim to assist mainly large businesses' invoicing and accounting procedures.

Example 2: Goods are handed over to a business customer on December 28, but the invoice follows on January 5 and is paid on February 5. Although the basic tax point is the first event, if the invoice is issued within 14 days that date is treated as the VAT tax point. As it is after December 31



GOING UP: Be prepared for the VAT rate rise in January

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to know about change

On December 1, 2008, there was a lot of confusion when the standard rate of VAT was reduced from 17.5 per cent to 15 per cent. With the rate now due to revert to 17.5 per cent from January 1, 2010, **ALAN BUCKETT**, Head of VAT Services at Maidstone-based DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, explains the implications

VAT at 17.5 per cent is chargeable. This is unlikely to concern VAT registered customers who can reclaim VAT incurred on business expenditure in full and may be easier for suppliers who invoice within 14 days of supplying goods.

But there are also optional 'change of rate' rules. In example 2, if the customer is VAT registered but is partly exempt, they cannot reclaim all the VAT. If the basic tax point is before January 1 the optional change of rate rules allow the supplier to charge VAT at 15 per cent even though its invoice is issued after December 31.

For services, the tax point depends on the type of service provided.

For a one-off service like repairing a burst pipe over two days, the basic tax point occurs on the day the service is completed. However, if invoicing and/or payment occur earlier, one of those dates, whichever is the earlier, overrides the basic tax point. Unregistered or partly exempt clients may prefer to be invoiced before January 1 for a service to be performed early next year in order to save VAT.

For continuous services, like ongoing legal or accountancy advice which is billed periodically, there is no performance tax point, so invoicing and payment, whichever is the earlier, fixes the VAT tax point.

ing and payment, whichever is the earlier, fixes the VAT tax point.

Example 3: A firm of lawyers provides ongoing legal advice to a VAT registered business which can reclaim all the VAT. It issues an invoice on February 1, 2010 for work carried out between November 1, 2009 and January 31, 2010. It charges VAT at 17.5 per cent.

Example 4: Say the client in example 3 is a private individual. The optional change of rate rules allow the law firm to apportion the work done up to December 31 and charge 15 per cent VAT and then charge 17.5 per cent VAT on the remainder. Can your invoicing systems cope with this?

Anti-avoidance

To prevent connected persons manipulating the change of rate rules, the Government has introduced anti-avoidance legislation. In practice the number of transactions likely to be affected may be minimal.

Essentially, if you answer yes to one or more of the following you should seek specialist advice:

- Is the value of the supply more than £100,000 (excluding VAT)?
- Are the supplier and customer 'connected'?
- Is an advance invoice before January 1

not payable within six months?

- For prepayment arrangements is the supplier, or anyone connected to the supplier, financing the prepayment?

Other issues

The above is only a brief warning on some of the issues to be considered. Different businesses will be faced with specific issues, like those using cash accounting, the flat rate scheme, private fuel scale charges, etc. will need to consider the implications carefully.

Key points

- Consider which of your customers are VAT registered and can reclaim all the VAT you charge them.
- How many of your customers can only recover part of the VAT you charge or none at all? Consider whether you can help these clients save VAT.
- Can your IT and invoicing systems cope with the basic, 14 day and optional change of rate tax point rules?
- Seek specialist advice early. Remember that VAT rules depend on specific and detailed facts so you must provide full information.

For more information call 01622 690666 or e-mail alan.buckett@dsh.co.uk or fiona.ratcliff@dsh.co.uk.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Canterbury Hyundai motor dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering this deal: buy two large glasses of wine and get the rest of the bottle free at the Victory pub

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering a Lifeshine full car care for £299

■ Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250

■ Secure Style, windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors

■ Lay Well flooring store in Sittingbourne is offering a free upgrade on underlay

■ Cliftonville tile centre in Cliftonville is offering free adhesive and grout on all tile orders over 15 metres

■ Decorators Choice, supplier of paints and wallpapers in Canterbury, is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening. Lines and wrinkle reduction treatment

■ Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering FREE car mats with all new Mazda purchases new and used

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■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering a free 10-minute Kerastase treatment

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £45

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

■ FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering MOTs for only £39.99

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering a brand new gym bag worth over £25 to all new members

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phones for just £24.99, save £20

■ SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all building works

■ KOS is offering goose down surround pillows from only £24.99 inc p&p, save up to £125 on RRP

■ Secure Style windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

BY JENNIFER EDWARDS

THE European Parliament will debate the Consumer Rights Directive later this month, completing a review of consumer rights across the European Union which has already resulted in the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 and the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

The Directive aims to provide a uniform set of consumer rights across the EU by granting consumers a minimum level of contractual rights and remedies whilst retaining the general principles of contract law in each member state. Existing sector-specific legislation will prevail over the generic standards. The ultimate aim is to encourage consumers to buy goods across the EU.

Changes which favour UK consumers include: the right not to pay any additional charges not notified to them at the outset; a longer cooling-off period of 14 days; the right to a refund within seven days (currently 30 days) for late or non-delivery and the right to require a price reduction or refund in certain circumstances.

Changes which favour UK businesses include: the right, when a customer cancels the contract, to withhold reimbursement until the goods have been returned (currently, a refund within 30 days is required); the right to refuse a refund for minor defects and a reduction in the statutory liability period for defective goods from six years to two years (one year for second-hand goods).

Service providers looking to expand into the EEA (other than in sectors such as financial services, transport and healthcare) will benefit from a streamlined process when the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 come

The changing landscape of consumer legislation



REVIEW: The European Parliament will debate the Consumer Rights Directive this month

into force at the end of next month. A single point of contact will be established in each country (for example, Business Link in the UK) to deal with enquiries and applications to trade in that country. Consumers will benefit from a single online advice service in each country. The Regulations encourage co-operation between regulatory bodies across the EEA, particularly in relation to businesses which pose a danger to the environment, public health and/or safety and introduce new sanctions. However, the Regulations also add to, rather than consolidate, the existing lists of information which businesses must provide to customers.

The Consumer Protection from Unfair

Trading Regulations 2008 create an EU-wide list of commercial practices which are unfair if they affect a consumer's decision and a black-list of 31 banned practices. The Regulations apply to all consumer contracts but may also affect contracts between businesses which have a close connection with consumers - for example, a distribution agreement where the end-user is a consumer. The Regulations encourage the free-flow of information across the EU, particularly in relation to enforcement action. The OFT now has the right to request that its equivalent body in, say, France takes enforcement action against a French company which has breached the Regulations in relation to a consumer located in the UK. The OFT also has additional investigative powers and can, for example, inspect goods without a warrant.

Surprisingly, or perhaps as a result of the scale and nature of the changes, the OFT has stated that it wishes to encourage self-regulation where it is more appropriate than enforcement or intervention. To this end, the OFT has set up the Consumer Codes Approval Scheme and the Local Authority Assured Trader Scheme Network. In addition, the OFT will support industry-based schemes which require a higher standard of compliance than the legal minimum but will not give formal approval or guarantee a "safe harbour".

As with all new regulation, the hope is that the benefits will outweigh the additional administrative and legal burden, but it remains to be seen whether cross-border buying increases significantly as a result.

• **Jennifer Edwards is from Thomson Snell & Passmore**

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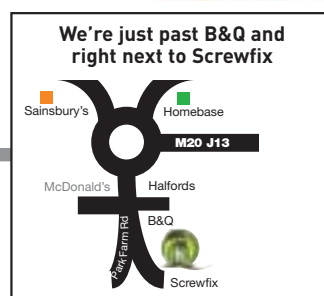
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Can you make

By JEREMY GATES

ALTHOUGH Prime Minister Gordon Brown thinks next month's Copenhagen Climate Change Summit could save the planet, others are thinking more about the potential benefits from investing in the growing 'Green' agenda.

With National Ethical Investment Week ending on November 14, that concept has been to the fore. New figures show that the amount held in ethical funds – which invest only in companies deemed to help and protect the environment – has soared from £1.5 billion a decade ago to around £7b today.

The first ethical managed fund, F&C Asset Management's Stewardship Growth, celebrated its 25th anniversary this summer. It manages £2.4b of ethical investment in four funds.

Many people probably have part of their pension pots in leading ethical funds including Jupiter Ecology (market cap £307 million), BlackRock New Energy (£106m) and Schroders Global Climate Change Fund (£20m), which launched in 2007.

A special poll by YouGov, carried out for this week's campaign, reveals that 49 per cent of savers want to 'make a difference' – and make money – from ethical investments. The survey also found the 55-plus age group is keenest to back the green agenda, both when they save and when they spend.

But even with nearly 100 green and ethical funds to choose from, only 8 per cent of investors hold a green financial product.

"Investors are starting to see how they can

profit from the shift to a more sustainable world, as events like Copenhagen lift sustainability issues up the political and media agendas," says George Latham, head of socially responsible investment at fund manager Henderson New Star.

"There is growing interest from investors in themes that provide solutions to sustainability changes, including water management and education, alongside more traditional green investment themes such as cleaner energy and sustainable transport."

In theory, as green regulations force consumers to spend more on measures to cut energy bills, the case for long-term green investment – either in managed funds, or shares like waste specialists Biffa (now taken private) and Shanks – looks a no-brainer.

"Large numbers of people are putting their money where their mouth is and doing their bit to create a sustainable future," says Penny Shepherd, chief executive of UKSIF, the sustainable investment and finance association promoting NEIW.

"There are simple steps

you can take to apply these principles to your pension, ISA and other investments."

That's the theory. But finding successful ethical investments isn't always easy.

When M&S launched an Ethical Fund in 2007, I fixed a £75 monthly direct debit. Thirty months on, my holding is worth £200 less than the total paid in, so my cash would have done better in a building society.

Green shares are even harder to fathom: Newcastle-based Eaga is an obvious beneficiary in the fight against climate change, because it turns over £750m a year making homes more energy efficient to meet the Government target of cutting carbon emissions by 25 per cent by 2020.

As many bills for this work are paid by public-sector grants, Eaga looks pretty recession-proof. Yet its shares – which cost 181p each in June 2007, when the company floated – changed hands this



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ADULT

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money going green?

week at 143p. All 5,000 Eaga employees are shareholders, with other shares held mainly by big institutions.

Andy Parsons at The Share Centre isn't surprised by this.

"All sorts of green ideas and environmental initiatives are discussed at top level," he says, "But you must remember that their impact on everyday life is still fairly limited."

"People are slowly changing their habits and their consumption patterns, but it is only when these changes become dramatic that you will see really significant growth in earning patterns flowing through to companies, and to the funds which invest in them."

Another recent problem for ethical funds is that they won't hold shares in oil, mining and tobacco companies – which have driven this year's rally on the London market.

Because investing in the green revolution is so complex, most people ask a specialist financial advisor to suggest a suitable fund.

Recommendations by The Share Centre include: Allianz Global Eco trends, a £19m fund run by Bozena Jankowska focusing on alternative energy sources, energy efficiency and environmental quality; Jupiter Ecology; and Schroder Global Change.

At the F&C Stewardship International Fund, which delivered a 21 per cent return in the past year, fund manager Terry Coles attributes his recent success to the decision to expand ethical investing techniques beyond the "traditional stomping ground" of the US and Britain to fast-growing emerging markets, notably Asia and Latin America.

Impax is a smaller fund manager, holding £1.4b of investors' money, but its expertise in

the ethical sector is widely accepted.

"The environmental sector offers better growth and returns than the mainstream economy and is therefore a smart place to allocate funds, whether you are ethically motivated or not," says Ian Simm, manager of the Impax Environmental Markets fund.

Impax has successfully identified fast-growing companies in renewable energy, water treatment, energy efficiency and environmental consultancy. One of its major investments is Vestas, a Danish maker of wind turbines.

In five years, Impax Environmental Markets Fund has turned £100 into £161. Last month, Impax raised £104.5m to launch a new Asian Environment Markets investment trust to tap the potential of the Asia-Pacific.

"The big difference is that in the last big recession in the early 1990s, companies focused on environmental operations were seen as a luxury which a struggling economy couldn't really afford," says Simm.

"Now environmental issues are at the centre of fiscal stimulation policy, and how to get the economy kickstarted again in the next couple of years."

"If Copenhagen achieved no agreement at all, it would be a negative signal to the energy efficiency business. I have little doubt some useful agreement will emerge in due course, if not within the first two days."

On past form, however, nobody invests in ethical funds for a quick profit, or high annual income. Mostly they pay minimal dividends, so investors must be convinced they will see a decent capital gain over the medium to long-term as new technology moves into the mainstream.



LONG TERM INVESTMENT: Green investments are increasingly an option for savers

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Big bailout, but little change to services



As billions more pounds of taxpayers' cash has been pumped into Britain's ailing banks, holders of more than 40 million current accounts might hope that the management of their financial affairs is about to be transformed.

Surely, we must get something for all that money? As the Government stumps up another £33.5 billion, the bailout bill for Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group soared to £76b – and the total 'bank rescue' bill hit £20,000 for every person in Britain.

In this latest deal, forced through by the European Union, about 1,000 bank branches could change hands, profitable insurance companies like Churchill and Direct Line must be sold by RBS – and ancient names could return, such as Williams and Glyn's Bank.

Lloyds's hapless shareholders, who have lost millions since the bank's disastrous 'rescue' of HBOS in autumn 2008, must stump up another £21b in the biggest rights issue of all time with no chance of a dividend before 2012.

Meanwhile, out of the wreckage could step Tesco Bank, and maybe a Virgin Money Bank too, if somebody finds the cash while Sir Richard Branson's team adds marketing fizz.

By **JEREMY GATES**

Their first target? Maybe the £2.65b charges on unauthorised overdrafts that the Office of Fair Trading thinks form too big a part of £8b profits made on current accounts each year.

Most bank customers, however, will see little immediate benefit from this upheaval, says Annie Shaw at CashQuestions.com.

"Customers of existing banks, whether under new ownership or not, are unlikely to see any change in the trend towards higher – if more transparent – charges, cautious lending and the gradual ending of free current-account banking," she says.

Kevin Mountford, head of banking at money supermarket.com, says more competition generally heralds a better deal for consumers, so new entrants to the market would be welcome.

But a moneysupermarket.com survey reveals only four per cent of consumers would trust a supermarket brand to look after their finances, and only 10 per cent would expect better service from a supermarket than a bank. Only a quarter said they would take out a credit card with a supermarket brand.

Mountford thinks the best thing to emerge could be a simpler, faster service when switching accounts: "The way you are shoehorned

into an organisation that you don't like must be changed. We need a healthy switching environment which allows people to move freely.

"I think Tesco, which already offers a range of financial services, will do something soon. They might not wait for an asset sale, which could take three or four years to unfold.

"Any new entrants in the marketplace will have to do something which sets them apart, in product innovation or service standards – maybe branches opening 8am-8pm."

Andrew Hagger at Money.net.co.uk believes fresh blood is needed in the banking sector, with simple well-priced products, to give customers better choices.

"Customers don't want to continually chase best-buy rates or have to try to figure out pitfalls hidden deep in terms and conditions of ever-more complex accounts," he says.

Innovation

"High Street banking giants have got used to having it their own way, and have got more complacent as competition has dwindled.

"Innovative new players who can balance shareholder and customer expectations have a window of opportunity to convince millions of consumers that they represent a credible banking alternative, one worth switching to."

Of course, nobody really knows how fast the

changes in retail banking will come along.

Meanwhile, savvy bank customers – particularly the two-thirds who stay in credit each month – can find better value accounts by sifting through those already available, mostly outside the banks in distress.

"Consider how you use your account – are you in credit or in the red? From there, you can find a best buy," says Hagger.

Nationwide's Flexaccount, for example, has attractions for first-time buyers because Britain's biggest building society is offering 90 per cent mortgages to account holders. The Flexaccount debit card slashes the cost of purchases and cash withdrawals abroad, and is much cheaper than rivals, even after a one per cent charge outside Europe imposed this year.

Hagger also tips Halifax Reward account as a best buy for those in credit.

"There is a £5 credit paid in every month when you pay in a minimum £1,000, and no charges if you stay in the black," he says.

"Once in the red, you are clobbered: if your overdraft is under £2,500, the charge is £1 a day. Over £2,500, it's £2 a day and any unauthorised borrowing is £5 per day."

The theme runs through most best-buy accounts: millions who stay in the black accept a poorer service than they could find elsewhere, if they bothered to look.

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Road tax gains not that great yet

Superminis like the cool Alfa Romeo MiTo are tempting says **STEVE LOADER**, but you need more than road tax and even fuel savings to justify chopping your old motor for one.



Road tax bands

(post March 1, 2001, cars)

Band A (0-100g/km of CO₂) – £0
 Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
 Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
 Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
 Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
 Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
 Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
 Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
 Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

WHATEVER you do, don't trade-in your car just to win back a few pounds a year on road tax.

If the car is reliable and not ridiculously thirsty then it is just not worth saving up to £185 a year on the maximum rate for a car registered before March 1, 2001, by downsizing to a newer, dearer lower emission model.

If it is a newer car then there is every chance you will take a major hit on depreciation that cannot be recouped by road tax and fuel benefits.

On the other hand, if you are making the decision for a number of reasons – lower insurance, more convenient size or body style, social conscience as well as cheaper tax and fuel bills – then maybe it is time to fall in with the Government's drive to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road.

The tax penalties could have been worse, to be fair, if Chancellor Alistair Darling had not relented after seeing that the gloom of recession

THINK ABOUT IT: There are more costs to a car than road tax for you to consider

sion might have sparked a roads revolt by hard-pressed motorists.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO₂ emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying them to cars registered after 1 March 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills or cover relatively fewer miles.

Alternatively, they can opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion, which should then halve their fuel costs – filling stations offering LPG have become increasingly common.

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*7-year/100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. †Price correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Model shown is Kia 1.4 cee'd '11' @ £7,995 On The Road (OTR) after deducting £2,000 Government and Kia Scragpage Incentive and £1,900 customer saving. Government Scragpage incentive applies to cars registered on or before 28/02/2009 only when traded in against new cars. Scrapped vehicles must have been registered to the purchaser for at least the 12 months preceding the purchase of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. OTR prices include VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Metallic paint option £395.00 inc. VAT. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01 October 2009 and 31 December 2009.



ECO DRIVE: Sharply-styled models like the Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX and Chevrolet Cruze will cut running costs, but being more savvy behind the wheel can protect your wallet too

Drive smart – smart savings

BUYING a new car to save on tax, fuel, insurance and overall running costs must be just part of a motorist budget review.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short hops also mean extra servicing and more engine wear. If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should try car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.
- Check tyres – under-inflated ones need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.
- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruise-

ing speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves 'juice' too.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine; pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.
- Remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too, so try to use the cabin fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – it's half the price of petrol and cleaner.
- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.
- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?
- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine to save fuel and emissions.
- **For more eco tips take a look at Julie Maddocks' online video report at: www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.**



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How best to save – buy a new car or bank the cash?

RECESSION-hit Brits are saving more despite weak interest rates, but is this sensible for those who need to run a car?

Might it be better to take advantage of near desperation discounts in the car showrooms – especially in the trade's 'dead zone' either side of Christmas – and liberate low yield savings in search of one of the many new car bargains around the moment?

Even better, if you have a ten-year-old car costing a lot to run then you can still apply for the Government-sponsored £2,000 Scrappage grant. Against a small car, that two grand saving is a hefty discount, but the discounts on bigger models can be greater with or without a Scrappage banger to trade in.

Okay, a car costs thousands with or without the discount, but it will take years to earn four figure sums from banking at the rates offered now and for some time to come.

And you can make further savings after driving off the forecourt too by downsizing and opting for a model incurring lower road tax, fuel bills and other running costs.

Even if, after raiding the bank account and waving your 'wad' at the car salesman, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance.

A generous warranty of up to seven years is also worth having. And be cheeky – ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or



A GOOD SAVING: Chic, eco-friendly and well-priced – the Mazda2 mounts a strong savings argument against leaving your cash in the bank

discounts on any add-ons you might fancy.

But do ensure you are not buying a car on 'run out', where production or importing ceased a while ago. Choose the engine carefully too; with fuel prices volatile, you don't want to trade one gas guzzler for another.

Buy wisely and your new vehicle could save you a fortune, even on depreciation, though cars always devalue.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern, more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, you might have lost tons already on that big 4x4, but do work out what it will cost you to run it for the next

three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax also favours downsizing – gas guzzlers face £950 a year road tax from next year – but it is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by tax-exempt diesel and hybrid models, check the price. The 'eco star' might save £105 in road tax over three years, but you will pay more upfront.

So, check out the conventional equivalents and don't dismiss petrol; it is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99

■ Motorline Renault motor dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 minutes of karting for only £10

■ UK Stone stone merchant in Hersden near Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off Sandstone and limestone list price

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Rochester is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering a free lock when you purchase a bike instore

■ SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off landscaping

■ FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering half price MOT with full service

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering memberships from as little as £29 a month

■ UK Stone stone merchants in Hersden nr Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off sandstone spheres

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Scrappage strikes all the right notes with car buyers

BY **STEVE LOADER**

AFTER a top up at the Labour Party Conference, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive should have enough gas in the tank to last the pace.

Enthusiasm was so great though, that the original £300 million fund set aside to last until March 2010 looked woefully inadequate until Business Secretary Lord Mandelson confirmed a further £150m would be added – enough to finance a further 100,000 deals on top of the 200,000 already signed.

The offer is that the donor car or van going to the crusher must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and the owner's name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date he or she places their new car order.

Carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to foot half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting the Treasury would claw back some money through VAT on each car sale anyway.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is not the greatest lure when interest rates are so low.

On the other hand, consumers with bank



SMALL SAVERS: Nissan's British-built Micra supermini has been a major beneficiary of the successful Government Scrappage scheme and the trend towards downsizing

savings know they are receiving precious little return and may be tempted by a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing to have a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a

while though, do your research; diesel cars now outsell petrol, but cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you must drive many miles to recover that extra upfront outlay. Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care Petrol or Diesel £139

■ KOS is offering the Doro 338 GSM Big button mobile phone for £99.99

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ KOS is offering the Pulsar Military Style Chronograph Watch. Save £20. Offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

■ FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering £250 of accessories with Network Q purchases

■ KOS is offering Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off a 4X4 off-road driving experience

■ KOS is offering solar powered bird baths. Save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP, £149.99

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free day pass when you call into village leisure club and exchange your voucher – available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO2 emissions 119g/km.

Vehicle shown features mica paint available at extra cost of £325. 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st December 2009. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev79242). Scrappage Allowance subject to eligibility, please ask for terms and conditions.

BY **STEVE LOADER**

DOWNSIZING is the buzzword with cash-strapped UK car buyers so supermini sales are soaring, but what if you can't squeeze the family into one or you simply need more room?

The French have the answer in the form of cheap and capacious van-based MPVs.

These might look like Postman Pat styled them and Bob the Builder did the road testing, but their origins are more to do with family needs in the vast rural hinterland across the Channel.

The simple format was to take a small van with sliding rear side doors and add seats and huge windows, creating an MPV thousands of pounds cheaper than a 'proper' people carrier.

Being vans, they were also offered with tried and trusted – and economical – diesel engines. Having succeeded beyond their wildest dreams and frontiers though, French manufacturers have also gone a stage further and designed the current generation to handle far better than before.

The latest Peugeot Partner Tepee – also sold by Citroën as the Berlingo Multispace – is based on the company's 308 car, so there is less of a drunken sailor's gait on corners than its predecessor.

And Renault has just launched the second generation version of its hugely successful Kangoo – rhymes with 'can do' – also based on a car platform, in this case the marque's posh Scenic, so you get a chassis designed for the people carrier task at a much lower price.

Italy's Fiat has got in on the act and jointly builds a smaller van-based MPV version known as the Qubo, along with Peugeot (Bipper Tepee) and Citroën (Nemo Multispace) and even this has car-based underpinnings from its own Grande Punto supermini.

The immediate appeal of these cars is easy access to the box-shaped rear thanks to those

The cross-Channel recession-busters



PREVIOUS LIFE: Peugeot's Partner Tepee, top, and the Renault Kangoo are just two of the many more affordable van-based people carriers to have started crossing the channel

sliding doors. Unlike many MPVs there is also still a massive boot behind the rear seats, which can usually be folded and arranged in various settings for maximum flexibility.

A big lift up tailgate doubles as a rain shelter or shade when picnicking or 'grandstanding' at events.

The headroom is almost ridiculously lofty and you can buy many of these cars specc'd up with airliner-style overhead lockers, though the sporty often use this extra space for stowing fishing rods, skis, mountain bikes and other gear and, of course, a spot of removals for Aunt Gladys' new flat is no big deal – in another life, they were vans.



Essential guide to where you can save

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free bottle of house wine when you present your voucher at time of booking your office Christmas lunch before November 1 – minimum table of four to qualify – available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, so you can save time and money and use up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning services for £79.95, plus VAT

■ KOS is offering Severin Electric BBQ. Save £30 on offer price of £149.99, RRP £179.99

■ Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Living Out log cabin store, Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ KOS is offering a £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine, only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99

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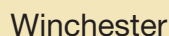
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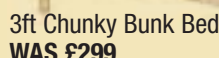
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From Saturday there will be a large selection available from the Walled Garden between 10am and 4pm, and a voucher for a free visit to Bedgebury will be given away with every tree. These will be entered into a prize draw to win a pair of Bedgebury concert tickets.

For more information, visit www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury.

Rick Stein is cooking things up at Bluewater

TELEVISION chef Rick Stein will be signing copies of his new book at Bluewater next week.

Rick Stein's *Far Eastern Odyssey* (BBC Books, £25) accompanies his latest television series in which Stein took an epic culinary journey along rivers, through jungles and around coastlines to meet farmers and learn about the authentic foods of the Far East.

He will be at Waterstone's from 5pm on Monday. Call the store on 01322 624831.

County Square has got season all wrapped up

ANYONE who dreads the ordeal of wrapping Christmas gifts can find help at County Square shopping centre in Ashford.

Every Saturday until December 19, shoppers can take their purchases to the Santa's Little Helpers gift-wrapping team in the lower mall outside Debenhams.

The service is available between 10am and 4pm and all costs are donated to Demelza House children's hospice. Visit www.countysqureshoppingcentre.com.

Locally-produced soap is the natural choice

WAITROSE is cleaning up with natural handmade soaps from local company Fentons of Kent.

Company-founder Roz Burton is a former IT worker who set up the business just over a year ago, but her products have already become the first local soap to be stocked at her local Waitrose store.

If successful, they could be stocked in more stores. Made from completely natural ingredients, the soaps use Nature's own antibacterial and antiseptic plants.

Celebrity perfumes for those with money scents

BUY celebrity fragrances on a recession-friendly budget with Lloydspharmacy's Christmas offers.

Many famous scents are reduced by more than 50 per cent at the stores, with Kylie's Darling EDT spray being slashed from £29 to just £12.

There are also bargains to be had on Glow by JLo, David Beckham Instinct and Anais Anais.

See the full range in your local store, or visit www.lloydspharmacy.com.

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Friday 27th November

Lead Gremlin

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 28th November

Eyelash Guilt

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Saturday 28th November

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Tuesday 1st December

Dave Paisley

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Thursday 3rd December

On The Run

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Friday 4th December

Tortilla Army

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 5th December

Breeds

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 5th December

Damage Case

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Tuesday 8th December

Roger Betts

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street, Sandwich 01304 612335

Thursday 10th December

Shan Lee Parker

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street, Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 11th December

Sabatage

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 12th December

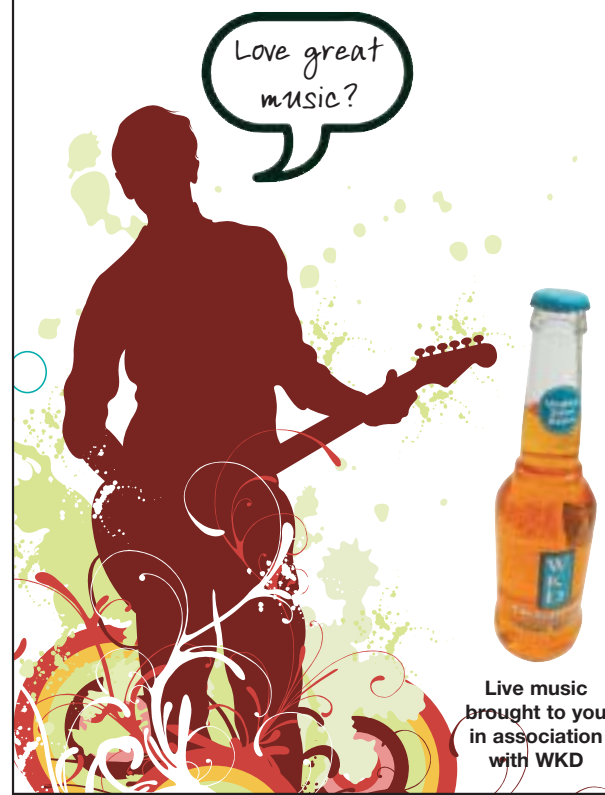
Situation Vacant

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Saturday 12th December

Suspects

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY ED HILL

DEFYING GRAVITY
BBC Two, 11.10pm, Saturday

THE X FACTOR
ITV 1, 8pm, Saturday

DEFYING Gravity, being shown on BBC Two on Saturday nights, is the latest TV trip into space.

Set 50 years in the future, it tells the tale of eight astronauts on a mission to Venus and other planets in the solar system.

It's an odd programme; the action continuously flips from the crew's current mission to five years before when they all began training. It's not exactly action-packed, either.

These space pioneers are not like trigger-happy warriors of Battlestar Galactica, but a load of self-obsessed naval-gazers.

If these people are what Nasa believes have the right stuff in 2058, they must have decided to use whinge-power as a way of travelling through the depths of outer space.

However, it does have some things going for it. The effects are good and the cast do a decent job of creating a sense of tension, but I can't help feeling that the series, like the characters, doesn't know where it's going.

Is it just a soap opera set in space, or an examination of man's need to explore, whatever the consequences?

It seems concerned mainly with the characters' relationships with each other than with any high concepts.

If I want to see that, I don't have to go to the moons of Saturn – I can pop down to Albert Square.

And so to another soap opera of sorts – The X Factor.

We're down to the business end of the competition now, with just a few weeks until we have to endure a turgid Christmas single, which will doubtless top the charts over yuletide.



BORED-LY GOING: Christina Cox stars in BBC Two's uninspiring sci-fi drama Defying Gravity

It's been an interesting year, if not one high on talent, but it really is impossible to escape this TV monster.

Even my mum, who is much more of a Strictly person, is aware of the 'Jedward' phenomenon, which has probably been the biggest talking point of the series.

I expect that Olly guy will win, as half the female population of this country seems to have fallen in love with him, but whether he has the talent to sustain a career in the mould of Leona Lewis is doubtful.

Stacey Solomon probably has a chance, too. She can hardly string a sentence together but, to be fair, the girl can belt out a tune.

However, I expect this year's winner will go the way of X Factor's previous winners like Steve Brookstein and Leon Jackson and become a household name, if only in their own household.

Fame is a fickle business.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU need to have a more realistic attitude about work. At some point you'll have to sacrifice your values in order to earn a living. If that means pretending to agree with a policy you detest, so be it. Resist the urge to tell such people what you really think of their antics.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

CHARM won't get you very far with an exacting boss. If you want to get into their good books you need to work hard and stay disciplined. A tough work assignment could be entrusted to you. By bringing this project in under budget you'll put yourself in line for a promotion.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU may not get a lot of sympathy from family. Relatives could accuse you of being your own worst enemy – and maybe they're right. Instead of asking for help, try getting yourself out of trouble. Set a deadline by which to pay off debts. It sounds boring, but your respectability will soar.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU may be giving people too much credit for being honest. Take some basic security precautions in order to protect your interests. Keep your personal information under lock and key to avoid identity theft, and install security systems to protect your home and car.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU'RE too easily defeated when it comes to pursuing your dreams. If you encounter an obstacle, hang on and pray for help. It could come quite unexpectedly. Teaming up with a male colleague will help you cut through work like a hot knife through butter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU may lack the training to get the kind of job you want. Unfortunately, it may not be possible to get the type of qualifications you need right now. Your best bet is to capitalise on your creative talent. You could find some great clients through a business or romantic partner.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

DON'T take your job for granted. You may not be able to get off work early or take the vacation time you wanted. Instead of getting angry accept the verdict and do your best. These days, finding work is no small task. If you are unemployed, you might want to launch a home-based business.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

MEAN what you say and say what you mean or people will accuse you of being a hypocrite. Youngsters are especially vulnerable to betrayal. If you go back on a promise it will be impossible to regain their trust. Your reputation could grow by leaps and bounds.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A TALENTED teacher could inspire you to further your education. Let a loved one relieve you of responsibilities while you pursue a cherished dream. Although you hate being beholden to anyone, there's nothing wrong with accepting favours from your nearest and dearest.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

AN intimate relationship is showing signs of strain. You feel as if you're doing all the giving, while your partner never returns the favour. It's time to adjust the balance of power. Your well-being is undergoing a radical improvement, mostly because your home life is so satisfying.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

THE party is over, and the sooner you realise it the better off you will be. Scale back on the fun and games so you can focus on work. If that means cancelling a date, so be it. Your attitude will win the confidence of customers who want to be treated with courtesy and respect.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

DON'T overestimate your power to make money. Although you haven't had much trouble earning cash, you need to put some away for a rainy day. Be ready to refuse a friend a loan or your relationship could be torn apart. Working behind the scenes will win your boss's approval.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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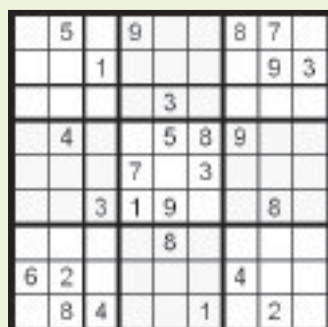
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

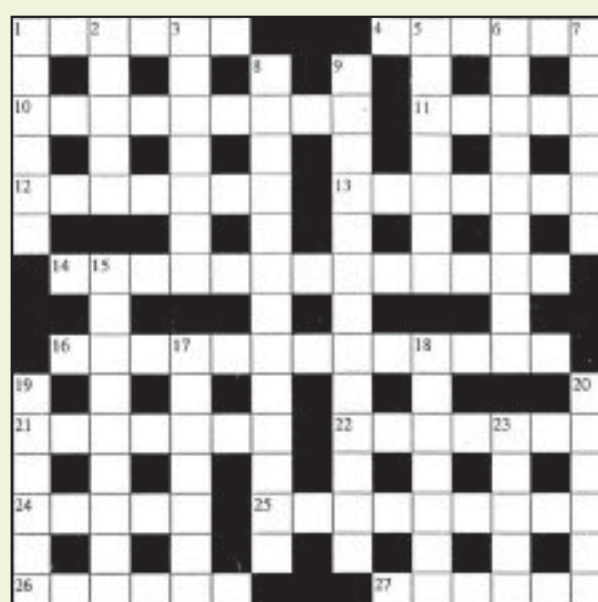
ACROSS

- 1 Digest overdrawn provided within city limits (6)
- 4 Interminable dispute's terribly silly (6)
- 10 Change of policy re change of direction (5-4)
- 11 Hardy's sarcasm! (5)
- 12 Set off in a rage? (7)
- 13 Unfamiliar mathematical quantity (7)
- 14 Taken to get out of another's way (7,6)
- 16 Linesman's justifiable departure from conventional order? (6,7)
- 21 Replace bottle that contains inactive medical substance (7)
- 22 Stout man holds stout perhaps (4-3)
- 24 Mount 100ft? (5)
- 25 I name twelfth man available if required (2,7)
- 26 Daughter never wandered round US city (6)
- 27 Cross part of lengthy bridge (6)

DOWN

- 1 Cowardly, but caught black bird (6)
- 2 Duke sorry coming up for flag (5)
- 3 Foolish one turned out during endless commotion (7)
- 5 Ketch, it bumped into trees (7)
- 6 Of amoebae coming from tropical zoo, not one left (9)
- 7 Way of preserving food that's losing moisture (6)
- 8 Monarch's quainter voice trembled (5,8)
- 9 I cut repayment out for part of vehicle (9,4)
- 15 Olivia not troubled by crime (9)
- 17 Several times find Frenchman in a quiver (7)
- 18 Body of persons sent on undertaking to ambassador's office (7)
- 19 Saw cocaine included had been seasoned (6)
- 20 Reconciled a sin (6)
- 23 Panellist on trial (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Jerky (6)
- 4 Itself (anag.) (6)
- 10 Being (9)
- 11 Church cellar (5)
- 12 Bring vessel to a standstill (5,2)
- 13 Parasite (7)
- 14 Painful new experience (7,2,4)
- 16 Variegated seabird (9,4)
- 21 Carry out (7)
- 22 Submit (4,3)
- 24 Meadow (5)
- 25 Restaurant (9)
- 26 Explosive case (6)
- 27 Coming (6)

DOWN

- 1 Childcare facility (6)
- 2 ___ board (5)
- 3 Uncomplaining (7)
- 5 Scold (4,3)
- 6 Poisonous toadstool (3,6)
- 7 Restaurant (6)
- 8 Unimportance (13)
- 9 Allowing to retire (10,3)
- 15 Wonder (9)
- 17 Arundel (anag.) (7)
- 18 Dedicated (7)
- 19 Reinforce (colloq.) (4,2)
- 20 Despot (6)
- 23 Sower (anag.) (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No114

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No114

ACROSS: 8 Expurgate 9 Azure 10 At one time 11 Kneel 12 Charm offensive 15 Toby 17 Runny 19 Vein 21 Antarctic Ocean 23 Feral 24 Breakneck 26 Robin 27 As a result.
DOWN: 1 Exotic 2 Quandary 3 Egg-timer 4 Stum 5 Backing 6 Juvenile 7 Well-being 13 Fungi 14 Stratford 16 Bathrobe 18 Yeomanry 19 Viennese 20 Praline 22 Nicely 25 Rusk.

QUICK SOLUTION No115

Beef up 20 Tyrant 23 Worse 15 Amazement 17 Laundry 18 Devoted 19 Eatery 8 Inconsequence 9 Pensioning off 10 Julia 3 Patient 5 Tick off 6 Fly again 7 26 Petard 27 Advent. DOWN: 1 Crèche 2 Excuse 22 Give way 24 Field 25 Catechism 21 Baptism of fire 16 Harlequin duck 14 11 Crypt 12 Heave to 13 Sponger 14

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PROPERTY NEWS

Agents report 'strong demand for property'

FOR every property on the market there are five potential buyers looking to buy it, new research has discovered.

A study by the National Association of Estate Agents found high-street branches had an average of 287 prospective buyers on their books in October.

The average number of properties available at estate agents was 57.

The high demand has bumped up prices slightly but has not translated into sales.

House prices increased 1.2 per cent in October, but estate agents sold an average 7.7 properties each during the month, down from 8.5 in September.

Gary Smith, NAEA president, said: "There is strong demand for property and more optimism in the housing market than we have seen for months."

"This is good news for the recovery of the market and for the British economy in general."

First-time buyers accounted for 22 per cent of sales in October, down from 26 per cent in September, but more than double the proportion of first-time buyers in October 2008.

Family and boredom cause seven-year itch

PEOPLE who own their homes feel the need to move house every seven years, new research has discovered.

Co-operative Bank found the main reason people move house is to make room for a growing family.

Other popular reasons homeowners stated for moving house included living closer to work and homeowners getting bored of living in their current home.

One in six said the prospect of taking on new DIY projects was what motivated them to move house.

The survey also discovered gender differences, with women more likely to become bored with a property than men.

John Hughes, Co-operative Bank spokesman, said: "The research shows there are a wide range of motivations behind moving house as people take account of changing family and financial situations throughout their lifetimes."

He added that homeowners should carefully plan their move to ensure they could afford a bigger property.

"It's important that people plan ahead, especially with regard to finances, to ensure they make the right choices and alleviate many of the pressures associated with the moving process," he said.



House prices drop in pre-Christmas slump

BY NICK AMES

RESIDENTIAL property prices in the UK have fallen for the first time in three months, but there is still confidence in the market, say experts – and a spring surge is also predicted.

The Rightmove monthly index is the first for months to show a decline in property prices.

They are down 1.6 per cent between October and November, with the organisation saying that it believes a dash to sell before Christmas has prompted sellers to reduce prices.

It said the average house price fell from £230,184 in October to £226,440 in November.

But house prices are still 1.6 per cent higher than this time last year and this is the largest increase since a 2.2 per cent rise in May 2008.

Rightmove is predicting further declines in December and January, traditionally the slowest time of the year for the real estate market.

In all but the most buoyant of markets, home-moving comes second to Christmas festivities at this time of year on an annual basis.

"While the market has recovered from some dreadful lows, this month's price fall proves that it doesn't have the strength to buck seasonal trends," said Miles Shipside, commercial director of Rightmove.

"We expect three months of asking-price falls before a tentative recovery in early spring, likely followed by pre-election jitters."

The index also shows that property stocks remained low, with 30 per cent fewer homes coming on to the market this month than at the same point in 2007, and mortgage availability is still hampering a recovery in the market.



SEEDS OF GROWTH: Despite a seasonal drop, experts are already predicting a house-price surge for spring 2010

Many would-be sellers are still unwilling or unable to come to the market and with the number of new-build properties running at half the levels required to satisfy anticipated demand, aspiring home-movers are set for a frustrating time for years to come, it says.

And overall, the picture is promising, with seven out of 10 regions showing prices are actually up on an annual basis.

The South East saw the largest increase in prices, with an average rise of 3.8 per cent

driven by the lowest average stock levels per estate agent. The East Midlands was the worst performer, with prices 1.6 per cent below those of November 2008.

Rightmove has also found that the upcoming end to the stamp-duty holiday is not causing a flood of sellers or buyers to join the market.

Currently, properties between £125,000 and £175,000 are exempt from paying the 1 per cent levy, with the exemption coming to an end on December 31 this year.

Lending future looks bright, say experts

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) has cut its forecast for the number of repossessions in 2009 to 48,000.

The estimate is substantially down on earlier forecasts of 75,000 in 2008 and 65,000 in June of this year, and the body says the improvement reflects "lender forbearance, Government measures and the beneficial effect of continuing low interest rates".

In further good news, CML figures show that at the end of September, 194,600 home loans – 1.77 per cent of all UK residential mortgages – were in arrears of 2.5 per cent or more of the outstanding balance.

The result compares with 204,200 mortgages in arrears on the same basis at the end of June, or 1.86 per cent of all mortgages.

In the three months to the end of September, 11,700 properties were repossessed by lenders, up slightly from 11,400 in the previous quarter, and showing a rise of 5 per cent on the third quarter of 2008.

Looking ahead, the CML is predicting that the number of housing transactions will reach 810,000 this year and 850,000 in 2010.

The council expects total net lending to be "modestly positive this year at £8 billion, revised from minus £5 billion previously, and

£15 billion next year". But repossessions could rise in 2010 to 53,000 or 0.48 per cent of outstanding mortgages.

Commenting on the latest arrears data and on the new forecasts, CML director general Michael Coogan said: "Borrowers should take heart from the latest findings as they reinforce the fact that lenders really do want to keep people in their homes – and are doing so."

"In terms of new lending next year, we expect a modest increase. But it is difficult to see the case for a dramatic upturn in the absence of significant improvement in the wider economic picture."

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Dover Office

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Littlestone 214,950

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New Romney

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Folkestone £184,995

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Elvington £94,950

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£275,000

Situated in the Historic 'Bayle' area of Folkestone, viewing is recommended of this impressive period conversion within a small gated development. Being the largest of four properties much attention has been given toward space and light, with high ceilings and glass panels. Further benefits include a courtyard garden and off road parking.

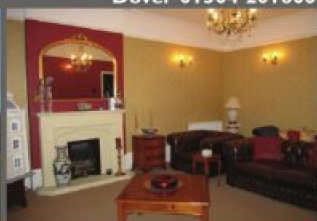


DOVER

Dover 01304 201806

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £400,000

Imposing detached period home in an enviable location. Offering five bedrooms, four reception rooms, double and single garages and much, much more. Must be viewed.



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FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211

FIXED PRICE £139,995

We are pleased to offer this mid terrace, three storey property with further updating and is offered for sale with no chain. Comprising: entrance

hall, lounge/diner and kitchen to the ground floor, two bedrooms, bathroom/WC and fixed staircase to loft conversion offering a third bedroom.



SHEPHERDSWELL

Dover 01304 201806

£225,000

Detached house with four bedrooms in favoured village location with access to local amenities and train station.



FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £215,000

Offered for sale with No Chain! Four bedroom family home in sought after Cheriton location.



TEMPLE EWELL

Dover 01304 201806

£130,000

Quirky two bedroom semi detached cottage in need of modernisation in popular village of Temple Ewell.



DOVER

Dover 01304 201806

£55,950

One bedroom ground floor flat in town centre location offered for sale with no chain.



HAWKINGE

Folkestone 01303 259211

£149,995

Offered for sale with no chain! Two bedroom semi detached house with off road parking and a garage. Internal viewing is highly recommended.



FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211

£154,995

Two bedroom ground floor flat in desirable location, benefits include garden, garage, share of freehold.



FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211

£159,995

Three bedroom family home in popular Cheriton location. Double glazing, gas fired central heating. Internal viewing highly recommended.



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Eastry £227,500

3 bedroom detached chalet style property offering comfortable and modern living with living/dining room, contemporary kitchen, study, gfl wc, three bedrooms, contemporary bathroom. Garage, driveway, dbg, gch.



Sandwich £179,950

Two bedroom ground floor apartment situated in popular Sandwich location, dual aspect living room, kitchen, shower room, communal garden, off road parking, GFCH, no chain.



Sandwich £449,950

Something a bit special! This listed barn has been completely renovated to an extremely high standard combining original timbers and materials with a contemporary style using oak and glass.



Deal £440,000

A charming period detached house with 5 bedrooms, three/four reception rooms, gfl WC, cellar, detached double garage with annex over, gardens to front rear and side. Call now to view.



Wingham £425,000

Elegant 5 bedroom home with accommodation over 3 floors and spacious cellar, 3 reception rooms, en-suite bathroom, enclosed courtyard garden, garage. Fitted kitchen/Dining Room, wealth of local amenities.



Eastry £320,000

Impressive detached family home, four bedrooms, living room, dining room, ground floor cloakroom, fitted kitchen, gardens to front, side and rear, parking, en-suite, triple aspects, private mews development.



Cliffsend £159,950

Two bedroom detached bungalow in need of modernisation situated on a double plot, lawned rear garden, det. Garage, call now to view.



Nonington £249,950

Well-presented detached spacious 3/4 bed bungalow, sought after village location, fitted contemporary style kitchen, living room, dining room, shower room and bathroom; driveway/garage, d.g. & gas fired central heating.



Wingham £375,000

Deceptively spacious listed home, boasting charm, character and wealth of period features. Popular village location. Four bedrooms, parking for several vehicles, fitted kitchen, dining room. Sitting room, en-suite, cellar.



Eastry £199,950

Deceptively spacious four bedroom semi like a 'showroom' inside, lounge, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast, two bathrooms, utility, 47' x 30' rear garden, off road parking for two cars, double glazing and gas central heating.



Sandwich £360,000

Need acreage? This two/three bedroom semi detached cottage could be the answer! Paddocks approximately 1.25 acres, garden approximately 25 of an acre, stable blocks! Potential to extend and plenty of parking.



Sandwich £395,000

Detached family home boasting living room, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility room, cloakroom. Four bedrooms, gardens, garage, driveway, double-glazing, gas-fired central heating.



Preston £249,950

Immaculately presented, popular village of Preston, backing onto farmland. 3 bedrooms, plenty of parking, contemporary styled kitchen and bathroom, conservatory, wood burning stove, no onward chain. View now!



Worth £399,950

Three bed detached period farmhouse on a plot of approx 1/3 acre with outbuildings to include barn, stables. It comprises living room with log burner, dining room, kitchen, boot room, conservatory, gfl sh room, ffl bathroom.



Sandwich £155,000

End terrace three bedroom home with spacious open plan living/dining room, kitchen, bathroom on first floor with white suite, double glazing, gas fired central heating, mainly paved patio garden to rear.



Sandwich Bay £395,000

Detached family home, four bedrooms, popular Waldershare Avenue location, generous F&R gardens, ample v. parking, integral garage. Call now to view.



Sandwich £215,000

Three bedroom home situated within the heart of the conservation area of Sandwich. Walled courtyard garden, garage, living/dining room, kitchen, gfl WC, first floor bathroom. Well presented.



Shepherdsweil £325,000

Immaculately presented detached family home in sought after location. One of only 3 properties in the development of three. Fitted kitchen, living room, dining room, conservatory, four WC's, two en-suite shower rooms.



Worth £165,000

End terrace cottage, living/Dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, two bedrooms, first floor bathroom, generous sized rear garden, workshop/shed, driveway to front. Double-glazing, gas-fired central heating.



Sandwich £145,000

Two bedroom cottage situated in the market town of Sandwich, kitchen and living room to the ground floor, two bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor. GFCH. Call now to view.

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Hythe | Price Range: £350,000-£375,000

- Stylish, Spacious Seafront Home
- 4 Double Bedrooms All With En-suite
- Direct Sea Views, Balcony

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Capel-Le-Ferne | Price Range: £350,000-£390,000

- Detached Chalet Style Home With 5 Bedrooms
- Balcony With Views To Master
- Workshop With Annexe Potential Driveway, Parking

FOLKESTONE OFFICE | 01303 256505



St. Marys Bay | Price Range: £285,000-£310,000

- Nicely presented sea-front home
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 receptions
- downstairs shower room

NEW ROMNEY OFFICE | 01797 363745



Cheriton | Offers Over: £199,995

- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Generous Corner Plot with Garage
- Driveway & Conservatory

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Lydd On Sea | Price Range: £165,000-£185,000

- Light and airy home
- just off the sea-front
- 3 bedrooms, neutral decoration

NEW ROMNEY OFFICE | 01797 363745



New Romney | Price Range: £165,000-£185,000

- Roomy corner plot
- stylish 3 bedroom home
- Central heating, fitted kitchen, en suite

NEW ROMNEY OFFICE | 01797 363745



**STAMP
DUTY
EXEMPT**

Cheriton | Price: £134,995

- Two Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow
- In Need Of Refurbishment
- No Onward Chain

FOLKESTONE OFFICE | 01303 256505



**STAMP
DUTY
EXEMPT**

Hythe | Price: £99,500

- 1 Bedroom Retirement Property
- Communal Lounge, Panic Button
- Lift To All Floors, Emergency Pull Cords

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**STAMP
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EXEMPT**

Folkestone | Price Range: £80,000-£90,000

- Refurbished And Restored One Bed
- First Floor Apartment Double Glazing
- Central Heating

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Hythe: 01303 267473

New Romney: 01797 363745

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WHITFIELD £255,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03106

- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- Garage/off road parking
- Vaulted lounge and en-suite



WHITFIELD £174,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03093

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- Superb decorative order
- Garage and driveway



CHERITON £166,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03027

- 3 bedroom mid terraced
- Lounge/Diner
- DG and GCH



CHERITON £214,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03116

- 5 bedroom terrace
- No chain
- Garage



DOVER £115,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02899

- 2 Bed Terrace, OSP
- No forward chain
- Drastically reduced!



WEST END £179,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03004

- Spacious 2 bed flat
- Private rear garden
- Cellar and no chain



DOVER £144,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03069

- 4 bedroom terrace
- GFCH & DG
- Private rear garden



CHERITON £144,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03102

- Three bed terraced house
- Separate dining room
- DG/GCH and garden



WEST END £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02993

- New 2 bedroom apartment
- Large rooms
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £139,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03085

- 2 bedroom top floor apartment
- Fitted kitchen
- DG/GCH



WEST END £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02994

- New 2 bedroom apartment
- Large rooms
- No chain



EAST CLIFF £219,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03078

- 3 bedroom detached house
- Conservatory
- Garage and driveway



FOLKESTONE £359,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03092

- 8 bedroom semi detached
- 5 bathrooms
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £86,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03071

- One bedroom first floor flat
- Large lounge
- Built-in wardrobes



CHERITON £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02098

- 3 bedroom flat
- Large rooms
- New kitchen and bathroom



FOLKESTONE £94,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03088

- One bedroom flat
- Private rear garden
- Close to the town centre



FOLKESTONE £129,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03026

- 2 Bedroom terraced
- Recently refurbished
- 60 FT rear garden



FOLKESTONE £249,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02971

- 4 bedroom semi detached
- 2 bathrooms and large garden
- Extensively modernised



FOLKESTONE £104,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03110

- 2 bed purpose built flat
- Balcony
- Ideal 1st time buy/investment



FOLKESTONE £199,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03031

- 3 bed semi detached bungalow
- OSP and garage
- 110FT rear garden

our sales are up

77%

SOLD S.T.C.

Source: net sales figures from M&B Folkestone/Dover comparing Mar - Aug '08 to Mar - Aug '09

FOLKESTONE
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DOVER
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FOLKESTONE £184,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03108

- 3 Bedroom semi detached
- Popular location
- Must be seen



FOLKESTONE £169,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03063

- Two bed garden apartment
- Convenient location
- Viewing essential



FOLKESTONE OIEO £88,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02306

- Lovely ground floor apartment
- Own garden approx. 70FT
- Perfect first time buy



EASTCLIFF £60,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03070

- FTB or investment
- Studio flat
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £159,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02440

- Spacious Maisonette, no chain
- 2 Bedrooms, extended lounge
- Split level, own garden



FOLKESTONE £129,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03066

- Two bedroom end of terrace
- GCH/Part double glazed
- Garden



WEST END £144,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02526

- 3 Bedrooms top floor flat
- Views over Grimston Gardens
- No chain, share of freehold



WEST END £249,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03050

- 3 bed flat
- Private garden
- Garage



FOLKESTONE £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03111

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Off street parking
- No chain



HAWKINGE £219,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03051

- 3 bedroom detached house
- Garage and parking
- Large garden and no chain



FOLKESTONE £134,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03077

- Three bed town-house
- Integral garage
- GCH/DG

In Folkestone & Dover we
agree at least 1 sale every

48hrs

SOLD

S.T.C.

Source: averaged out from sales
agreed in Folkestone & Dover for
June '09 - July '09



FOLKESTONE £94,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02972

- 2 bedroom apartment
- Superb throughout
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £224,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03073

- Extended three bed semi detached
- DG/OSP
- Close to soon coming rail link



FOLKESTONE £199,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03058

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- GCH/DG
- Newly fitted kitchen



CHERITON £149,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03015

- 2/3 bed terraced
- Superb condition throughout
- Landscaped garden



DOVER £109,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03055

- 2 bedroom flat
- Balcony
- Views of Dover Castle



FOLKESTONE £149,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02724

- 3 Bedroom family home
- Lounge/diner, extended kitchen
- Double glazing, play area to loft



FOLKESTONE £164,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02962

- Victorian terraced house
- 4 Bedrooms
- Modern kitchen and double glazed



SANDGATE £274,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03016

- 4 bedroom mid-terraced
- Superb ground floor conversion
- Sea views and no chain



DOVER £139,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03087

- 3 bedroom terrace
- Allocated parking
- Rear garden



SEA FRONT LOCATION £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03013

- 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 bathrooms and private garden
- No chain

FOLKESTONE
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DOVER
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SALES

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- Semi Detached Home • Three beds • Garage & OSP • 100ft Garden

FOLKESTONE £205,000



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- Terrace • Modern & Well Presented • Four Beds And Additional Room

SANDGATE £125,000



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- Two Bed Maisonette • 50 Yards To The Beach • Modern Kitchen

HAWKINGE £199,995



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- Semi Detached Family Home • Three Beds • No Onward Chain

HYTHE OIRO £150,000



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- 1 bed bungalow • Garage • OSP • Front/Rear Gardens • No chain

HYTHE £121,000



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- One Bed • Top Floor Apartment • High Street Location • Fitted Kitchen

HYTHE £169,995



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- Terrace • Three beds • Popular area • In need of updating

HYTHE £152,500



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- Terrace Cottage • Two Double Beds • Upstairs Bathroom • Kitchen

DOVER

£145,000



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- Semi Detached • Three Bedrooms • Fitted Kitchen • Lounge

DOVER £39,950



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- One Bedroom • Lounge • Garden • Requires Attention Throughout

EYTHORNE £239,995



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- Four Bedrooms • Semi Detached • Lounge • Large Dining Room

DOVER £107,500



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- Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen • Courtyard Garden

DOVER £159,995



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- Four Beds • 2 Receptions • Gas Heating • Some Period Features

GREAT MONGEHAM £122,000



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DEAL £134,950



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DEAL £139,950



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LETTINGS

SANDGATE £485PCM



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FOLKESTONE £525PCM



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CHERRY GARDEN AVENUE £595



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FOLKESTONE £950



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- 6 Bed • Close to Central Station • Enclosed Rear Garden

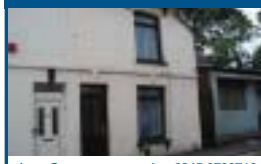
DOVER £380PCM



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- ONE BED • PARKING TO REAR • AVAILABLE NOW • MUST BE VIEWED

DOVER £425PCM



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- TWO BEDROOMS • ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN • AVAILABLE NOW

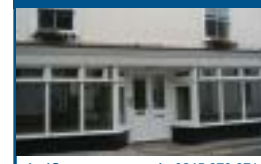
WALMER £395PCM



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- unfurnished • Close to amenities • Flat • Close to sea • parking

ST MARGARET'S BAY £440PCM



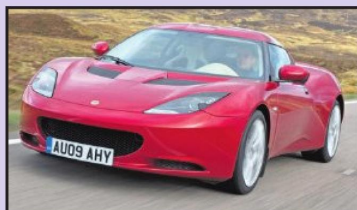
deal@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9711

- unfurnished • Modern kitchen • Close to amenities • White goods

sales lettings mortgages



MOTORS NEWS



Late Lotus proves to be definitely worth wait

IT took longer than expected for the stunning Lotus Evora to arrive, but it was worth it.

The Evora (from £47,500) is the junior supercar the legendary sports car maker needed to complement its 'stripped out' Elise/Exige series and evoke memories of the 1970s/80s 'big Lotus' series: the Elite (MkII), Eclat and Esprit – the last being a genuine supercar.

Kent Lotus dealer Lipscomb expects to sell 40 Evoras a year, without cannibalising 60 Elise/Exige orders annually.



Citroën juggles more power with emissions

CITROËN has maintained an increasingly familiar motor industry theme by swapping engines in its C5 family car line-up for greener yet more powerful units.

The apparently contradictory move brings a new 155bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit to replace the 143bhp 2.0 unit, and a single new 160bhp 2.0-litre diesel replaces one of 140bhp and a 173bhp 2.2 unit.

The new petrol engine gets eight per cent more power than before, but averages around 18 per cent better fuel consumption and 16 per cent lower CO2 emissions.



Matiz demise sparks a stylish replacement

IT'S still cheap to buy, but the Chevrolet Matiz city car is close to its sell-by date.

Chevy has a stunning successor waiting in the wings though; the aptly named Spark (pictured) has the cutting-edge style for a sector where 'small and chic' is increasingly important to marketing.

The Spark should arrive in early 2010, and will then soon be joined by the Orlando replacement for the Tacuma MPV and an all-new replacement for the Aveo supermini late next year/early 2011.



SMALL WONDER: The current Swift highlights a change of thinking by manufacturer's Suzuki, with a distinctive shape and a hike in quality plus better handling than its predecessor

Latest Swift shows new high-flying Suzuki style

SUZUKI has rightly been beaten up for mediocre cars called Swift.

Never swift in pace or demeanour, they also tended to signal the Japanese brand's then rather cheap and not so cheerful approach to car making – before tough Korean competition focussed minds.

The current Swift though highlights a serious re-think that has taken Suzuki from pretty much the dunce's corner to the front row in the supermini class. The company said it talked to consumers and just about anyone else with useful input and it shows – but isn't this how cars should be created anyway?

The Swift has its own distinctive shape and yet there is also a clever hint of the BMW Mini about it, with the exaggerated wide stance, blacked out windscreen pillars and shallow rear side windows.

Suzuki has done its homework elsewhere too; quality has been hiked, with smart and durable materials inside for a car in this class and at prices starting from just £8,995 for the 1.3GL three-door.

Okay, I admit it was easier to be impressed when our test car was the £1,555 dearer

ROAD TEST SUZUKI SWIFT

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

1.5GLX five-door, which brings air con and alloys and some other generous goodies, but it still represents excellent value. The Swift interior has smart alloy-effect trimming and sensible storage, decent room for four passengers and the two-level boot with removable false floor is large and flexible for this class.

A logical, smart and gimmick-free dashboard also impresses and best of all, the Swift is closer to its airborne namesake this time; it's a sweet handling, versatile and thoroughly satisfying drive – a cut-price Mini if you like – and there's a 'hot' 1.6-litre Sport model too (0-62mph in 8.9 seconds).

Not that this overshadows the 1.5-litre much (0-62mph in 10 seconds) as it has all the latest Swift hallmarks: tight steering, flat cornering and slick gearbox, while ride quality and motorway refinement is not sacrificed totally to driver appeal, though this 1.5 engine can sound buzzy at times. Unlike past Swifts a diesel is also offered (£11,250), courtesy of Fiat, which can average 60mpg.

Some things remain unchanged though; this much improved Swift range retains the brand's traditional reliability, while flying higher and faster than any predecessor.



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06 55 IVECO STRALIS AS440S43
TXP twin sleeper cab, 6x2 tractor
unit, auto box, EM, EW, air con,
276,160km, CPW inc. maintenance



04 04 IVECO CARGO 75E17
TIPPER 14ft day cab, dual pass
seat, EW, 77,600km

TRUCKS

06 06 Iveco Stralis AS440S43TXP

6x2 tractor unit, 317,890 km

06 56 Iveco Stralis AT190S27P

4x2 30ft chassis cab, 175,000 km

04 04 Iveco Cargo 180E24

26ft platform day cab, 133,600km

04 04 Iveco Cargo 75E17

14ft tipper day cab, 77,600 km

05 05 Iveco Cargo 75E17

20ft platform day cab, 149,000km

06 06 Iveco Cargo 75E17

20ft sleeper box,
rear roller shutter, 194,080km

08 58 Iveco Cargo 75E16

20ft box tuckaway t/lift, 12,968km

07 07 Iveco Cargo 75E17

20ft box column t/lift, 70,000km

06 56 Iveco Cargo 75E17

20ft box tuckaway t/lift, 70,893km

VANS

06 56 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van XLWB

3950 w/base, 35,669 miles

07 07 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van LWB

3300 w/base, 35,662 miles

05 05 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van LWB

3300 w/base, 59,000 miles

07 07 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van LWB

3300 w/base, 50,661 miles

04 54 Iveco Daily 35S12 Van XLWB

3950 w/base, 37,500 miles

08 08 Fiat Ducato 30 Van SWB

100MJT 2.2lt, 24,037 miles

07 07 Fiat Ducato 30 Van SWB

100MJT 2.2lt, 19,418 miles

09 58 Fiat Ducato 35 Van LWB

120MJT H/R, 400 miles

LIGHT COMMERCIALS

07 56 Fiat Scudo 1.9D Van LWB

twin side load doors,
37,384 miles

06 06 Fiat Doblo SX Van 1.9MJT

twin side load doors,
57,065 miles

OTHER MAKES

06 56 Nissan Cabstar 34.10

10ft dropside dual pass seat,
20,837 miles



08 08 FIAT DUCATO 30 SWB
100MJT 2.2lt, dual pass seat,
EW, b /head, remote lock,
plyline, 24,035 miles



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ON THE UP: Dover have made a great start to the season

RUGBY

Sharks coach has an eye on the title

A TITLE push in London 1 South title is not out of the question for Dover, according to head coach Graham Tonks after an impressive start to the season.

The Sharks have been one of Kent's most successful teams in recent years with six promotions in the last eight seasons. After 11 games of this campaign, they are already looking like potential title challengers, sitting in third place.

Dover are just three points behind league leaders Gravesend and have won their last six games. Their most impressive feat so far this season was a 21-17 win at fellow title rivals Cobham last month. Although the halfway point of the season is yet to be reached, Tonks believes his side have the potential to win the league.

He said: "It's early days but there is no reason why we cannot put a run together and win the league. We are on a great run at the moment, but we do still have to make up three points, which is a difficult task. There are plenty of games to go and we will be doing our best to stay in the hunt."

"I don't think there is one reason why we are doing so well, but I have to admit we have got some good players who play well together."

The Sharks will be favourites to extend their winning run to seven games this Saturday, when they travel to take on basement side Aylesford Bulls, who are yet to record a win. Dover should have a fully fit squad to choose from for the game.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
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OLD HEAD: Nicky Southall is congratulated after netting what proved to be the winner in Saturday's FA Trophy win against Dartford; Adam Birchall (right) had earlier put the Whites in front



Athletic stage a spirited comeback to deny rivals

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Dover Athletic 3

Birchall 6, Collin pen 33, Southall 70

Dartford 2

May 26, Harris 31

ANDY Hessenthaler hailed the character of his Dover side after they came from behind to beat in-form Dartford in a pulsating FA Trophy tie on Saturday.

A frantic first-half saw the sides share four goals, with Frannie Collin's penalty getting the hosts on level terms after Adam Birchall's early opener had been cancelled out by Dartford. Nicky Southall netted the winner and Dover, who had debutant Yado Mambo sent off, held on to set up a first round trip to Havant & Waterlooville on December 12.

The Whites had lost five of their previous six games and Hessenthaler was delighted with his side's efforts at the weekend.

He said: "We questioned ourselves before the game because of the run we have been on, but the performance showed the characters we have got at this club. They didn't lie down. We have come under criticism of late, but the result and performance shows the dressing room is okay."

Both sides went out to attack from the first whistle and there were decent chances at both ends before Birchall opened the scoring on six minutes. A Matt Fish cross found the former Arsenal trainee in the area and he slotted the ball into the corner of the net.

The striker almost doubled his tally midway through the half, but saw his shot superbly kept out by Dartford goalkeeper Andrew Young.

The visitors then hit back, scoring twice in the space of five minutes. Jay May equalised within a minute of Young's save, rounding off a fine move, before Ryan Hayes' cross was headed in by an unmarked Danny Harris.

The Ryman Premier leaders could only hold on to their lead for two minutes, as Dover won a penalty for a foul on Shaun Welford. Collin stepped up and placed the spot kick into the bottom corner.

The half-time interval did nothing to slow the game down and Dartford came out on top, laying siege on the Dover goal.

The Whites have been vulnerable in recent

Dover starting XI



Subs used: Rogers (Collin 66), Walder (Birchall 89), Davis (Southall 89)

weeks and Harris should have given Dartford the lead minutes after the restart. The striker found time and space in the Dover area, but shot wide when it looked easier to score.

The tie took another twist on the hour mark as Dover's new signing Mambo was shown his second yellow card of the game for a clumsy challenge and was subsequently sent off.

Against the run of play, Dover rallied and retook the lead with a clinical counter attacking move finished off by Southall.

Dartford continued to push forward and in the dying minutes substitute Danny Crouch had a great chance to force a replay, but his lofted effort flew narrowly wide.

Dover return to league action this Saturday with a home game against Thurrock.

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Seasiders earn a point in battle of league's top two

FOOTBALL

BY YOURSHEPWAY REPORTER

Folkestone Invicta 0 Worthing 0



FOLKESTONE Invicta's defence again excelled as they kept free-scoring Worthing at bay in the meeting of the Ryman South's top two on Saturday.

It was the ninth clean sheet in 15 league games for the Seasiders, who have conceded just seven goals in the whole campaign. The goalless draw came four days after another clean sheet against a strong side, with a 1-0 win against Met Police.

Invicta boss Neil Cugley was again full of praise for his young side on Saturday and felt a draw was the fair result.

He said: "I thought it was an even game. They set up as quite an attacking side and we're very good defensively and I think we probably cancelled each other out. It shows we haven't got to fear anybody and we're up near the top because we deserve it."

Invicta's win against Met Police meant the



Picture: IOR KIPRO

OFFSIDE: James Everitt came closest to breaking the deadlock for Invicta on Saturday but his goal was chalked off

sides went into the game level on points at the top, with Worthing's superior goal difference giving them the edge.

The home side were the first to threaten and James Everitt had the ball in the net on 20

Folkestone starting XI



Subs used: Williams (Jackson 75)

minutes. The goal was chalked off for off-side, to few complaints from the home side.

Goalkeeper Jack Delo is fast becoming a favourite with the home fans and he did his growing reputation no harm with two good saves to keep Worthing out before half-time.

Chances were at a premium after the break as both sides seemed unwilling to put their hard-won point at risk in order to go for all three points. The main talking point in the second-half was a dreadful tackle on Jimmy Jackson, which forced the experienced midfielder out of the game.

"It was a bad tackle," said Cugley. "It was one of those where I don't think they would've complained if the lad had got a red card."

Jackson, a key player in Invicta's youthful side, could recover from the gash in his shin in time to play this weekend.

The Seasiders were in action against Leatherhead last night, log on to www.yourshepway.co.uk for the details. On Saturday they host Burgess Hill Town.

RUGBY



FORCE: Folkestone (green) blew Hastings away on Saturday

Stones crush Hastings to progress in Vase

Folkestone 53 Hastings & Bexhill 3

FOLKESTONE cruised into round four of the Senior Vase with a comprehensive victory against Hastings & Bexhill on Saturday.

Lee Jeffery's side ran in eight tries to book their place in the regional quarter-finals with an impressive performance.

The home side had already beaten the Sussex visitors in the league this season and they quickly seized control of the game. Ben Brooks opened the scoring, racing on to a Simon Harris kick to touch down.

It was quickly 12-0 as the Stones started a move from inside the 22, finished off by Brooks and converted by Keith Green.

Hastings got on the board with a penalty, but it did nothing to alter the flow of the game. A third try for the home side swiftly followed as their pack drove over for Mart Korgesaar to open his account for the first-time.

Steadily

After the break Folkestone went on to steadily build their lead. A Green penalty made it 20-3 and it proved the foundation for a devastating spell which saw the hosts run in five tries.

James Oswald got the first, chipping through and collecting the ball himself to virtually seal the win. A rapid counter-attack then saw Harris dive over. Green added the extras, as he did for Jak Cox's try to make it 39-3.

Folkestone pushed for more and from the restart scored the try of the game with a flowing move finished off by Dan Sangiuseppe. Oswald scored the eighth try after good work from Cox, and Green rounded off the scoring with the conversion.

This Saturday the Stones return to London 3 South East action with a visit to Park House.

Former Folkestone player Catherine Spencer led England women to a 10-3 win against New Zealand women at Twickenham on Saturday, their first win against the All Blacks in eight years.

LEAGUE TABLES

(not including midweek games)
BLUE SQUARE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Newport County	17	12	4	1	+22	40
2 Dover Athletic	18	10	2	6	+10	32
3 Thurrock	16	9	4	3	+11	31
4 Woking	17	8	5	4	+7	29
5 Basingstoke Town	19	8	4	7	-3	28
6 Bishops Cleeve	17	8	3	6	+7	27
7 Braintree Town	16	7	6	3	+4	27
8 Chesham City	18	8	3	7	+2	27
9 Eastleigh	17	7	4	6	+8	25
10 Maidenhead United	19	6	7	6	+4	25
11 Bromley	16	7	4	5	+1	25
12 Bath City	17	6	6	5	+3	24
13 Staines Town	17	5	8	4	+1	23
14 Havant & Waterlooville	16	5	7	4	+2	22
15 St Albans City	17	6	4	7	-4	22
16 Welwyn United	17	6	3	8	-4	21
17 Hampton & Richmond B	16	5	5	6	+1	20
18 Dorchester Town	18	5	3	10	-11	18
19 Worcester City	18	3	6	9	-5	15
20 Weston-super-Mare	18	4	3	11	-10	15
21 Lewes	17	2	7	8	-11	13
22 Weymouth	19	2	4	13	-31	10

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Worthing	17	11	1	5	+13	34
2 Folkestone Invicta	15	10	4	1	+12	34
3 Walton & Hersham	15	9	3	3	+10	30
4 Godalming Town	14	9	2	5	+12	29
5 Fleet Town	15	8	2	5	+10	26
6 Merstham	15	8	2	5	+3	26
7 Croydon Athletic	13	7	4	2	+3	25
8 Chatham Town	17	7	3	7	-3	24
9 Metropolitan Police	15	7	5	7	+7	22
10 Corinthian-Casuals	16	6	3	7	+0	21
11 Whyteleafe	16	6	1	9	+4	19
12 Ramsgate	14	5	4	5	+3	19
13 Sittingbourne	14	5	4	5	+0	19
14 Dulwich Hamlet	16	4	7	5	-3	19
15 Leatherhead	13	5	3	5	+4	18
16 Burgess Hill Town	13	5	3	5	+0	18
17 Walton Casuals	15	4	4	7	-6	16
18 Eastbourne Town	15	4	3	7	-7	16
19 Horsham YMCA	14	3	4	7	-15	13
20 Ashford Town	15	2	5	8	-24	11
21 Chipstead	14	2	4	8	-14	10
22 Whitstable Town	15	2	1	12	-27	7

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Faversham Town	12	10	1	1	+22	31
2 Erith & Belvedere	11	8	0	3	+7	24
3 Herne Bay	11	7	1	3	+6	22
4 Sevenoaks Town	12	6	3	3	+8	21
5 Beckenham Town	11	6	1	4	+10	19
6 Tunbridge Wells	11	3	6	2	+4	15
7 Erith Town	10	4	3	3	+2	15
8 Greenwich Borough	11	4	3	4	+1	15
9 Hythe Town	8	4	2	2	+12	14
10 Norton Sports	11	4	1	6	-2	13
11 Sporting Bengal United	10	4	1	5	-10	13
12 Deal Town	10	3	3	4	-7	12
13 Fisher	14	3	2	9	-4	11
14 Holmesdale	12	3	1	8	-3	10
15 Corinthian	8	0	3	5	-13	3
16 Lordswood	10	0	3	7	-16	3

FIXTURES

(Saturday): Blue Square South: Dover Athletic v Thurrock; Ryman Division One South: Folkestone Invicta v Burgess Hill Town; Kent League Premier Division: Fisher v Hythe Town; Holmesdale v Deal Town



Picture: IOR KIPRO

WINNER: Dave Cook took his tally for the season into double figures edging Hythe to a victory against Beckenham

Dave cooks up a winner

DAVE Cook's tenth goal of the season proved the difference for Hythe Town as they edged past Beckenham Town on Saturday.

Cook's close range strike on the cusp of half-time was the least Scott Porter's side deserved, although they had to defend well in the second-half to take maximum points.

Hythe lost Ian Batten to injury after just three minutes, but it didn't prevent them taking control of the game. John Ralph had two good headed chances from Lee Winfield deliveries, one which hit the post and the other flew just over.

Cook had one point blank header brilliantly saved but made amends just before the interval, bundling home a rebound from six yards.

Beckenham carried more of a threat after half-time, but goalkeeper Kieron Mann dealt with everything which came his way. Hythe

FOOTBALL

Beckenham Town 0 Hythe Town 1

had a strong claim for a penalty when Michael Yianni appeared to be fouled, but the referee waved away the protests.

Following the 4-0 win against Holmesdale in their previous game, it was the first time Town had won back-to-back league games since August. Hythe will expect to extend their winning run to three league games when they visit struggling Fisher this Saturday.

Deal Town had to wait until midway through the second-half to break down rock bottom Lordswood. Aaron Robinson scored the only goal of the game in a 1-0 win to send Town up to 12th in the table ahead of Saturday's trip to Holmesdale.

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